

## Rep. Rothman Rips Racist Radio Hosts

For Immediate Release

Contact: Brice Peyre

Phone: 201-646-0808

### REP. ROTHMAN RIPS RACIST RADIO HOSTS

-- "There's No Room for Hate Talk on Public Airwaves,"

He Writes to FCC About 101.5 FM's "Jersey Guys" --

(Hackensack, NJ) In response to the bigoted diatribe against Asian-Americans aired on April 25th by shock radio hosts Chris Carton and Ray Rossi on New Jersey 101.5 FM, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today issued a blistering letter to Federal Communications Chairman Kevin J. Martin in which he denounced the broadcasters for speaking hatred over public airwaves.

In their broadcast on April 25th, which New Jersey 101.5 FM has subsequently defended as "entertainment" fare, Carton made derisive comments about Edison mayoral candidate Jun Choi, attempted to mimic the speech of Asian-Americans, said of Asian-Americans voting in that and other upcoming local elections in New Jersey, "no specific minority or foreign group should ever dictate the outcome of an American election," and added, "I don't like the fact that they crowd the goddamn black jack tables in Atlantic City with their little chain smoking and little pocket protectors.... 'Ching chong, ching chong, ching, chong.'" His outbursts were accompanied by laughter and agreement from Rossi. The two, who refer to themselves as the "Jersey Guys," recently gained notoriety for making cruel jokes about the post-partum depression suffered, and subsequently publicly discussed, by Mary Jo Codey, wife of the Acting Governor. (For a full transcript of their racist rant, please see <http://www.asianmediawatch.net/jerseyguys/>.)

Congressman Rothman denounced the rank bigotry expressed by the self-styled "entertainers" on 101.5 FM: "It is my profound wish that those entrusted with the power to broadcast their speech to thousands of listeners earn that trust by policing themselves and by refraining from engaging in hate speech that helps create an atmosphere in which violence against certain ethnic, religious, or other minority groups is tolerated or even condoned. It is particularly disturbing when hate speech is perpetrated by persons entrusted with the power of the megaphone metaphorically wielded by those able to broadcast their views over the public airwaves..."

Following is the entire text of Congressman Rothman's letter, which was sent to the FCC today:

Dear Chairman Martin:

I write to you to express the revulsion that I and many of my constituents share regarding inflammatory and racist statements broadcast on April 25, 2005 on the radio station New Jersey 101.5 FM by two talk radio hosts, Chris Carton

and Ray Rossi. Both the substance and the tone

of the on-air remarks, which were extremely derogatory toward and derisive of Asian-Americans, were extraordinarily disturbing and offensive (please see enclosed broadcast transcript). I urge the Federal Communications Commission to examine this incident - particularly in light of other recent, similarly offensive attempts at "entertainment" by Carton and Rossi which tried to find humor in ridiculing a specific individual who had suffered through the often traumatic condition known as post-partum depression - and to take any and all actions consistent with applicable FCC rules and regulations.

It is my profound wish that those entrusted with the power to broadcast their speech to tens of thousands of listeners earn that trust by policing themselves and by refraining from engaging in hate speech that helps create an atmosphere in which violence against certain ethnic, religious, or other minority groups is tolerated or even condoned. It is particularly disturbing when hate speech is perpetrated by persons entrusted with the power of the megaphone metaphorically wielded by those able to broadcast their views over the public airwaves through electronic media outlets on a daily basis.

Modern history is replete with the negative consequences of allowing hate speech to flourish unchecked. From Nazi Germany, when religious minorities, trade unions, and political dissidents were targeted through hate radio, to Rwanda, where Hutu radio broadcasts helped create an atmosphere in which violence against innocent Tutsi civilians reached genocidal proportions, radio has proved to be a stunningly effective weapon for those who would promote bigotry, hatred and violence. I urge the Federal Communications Commission to take the steps necessary to prevent this from ever happening here in America.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the FCC's actions on this matter.

Sincerely,

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

Member of Congress