

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan:

We write to you today as representatives of all 50 state broadcast associations, plus those for the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, to urge you to support the Local Radio Freedom Act (LRFA, H.Con.Res. 33) and oppose the American Music Fairness Act (AMFA, H.R. 4130).

Local radio has played a crucial role in communities across the country for more than a century. Listeners tune in to discover new music, listen to old favorites, find out about the day's weather and community events, and learn critical information in times of natural disasters and other emergencies. Radio provides all of these services for free.

Additionally, many radio stations play an outsized role in their local areas. Never has this been more clear than over the past couple of years, during the pandemic, when local broadcasters organized blood drives and food banks, participated in fundraisers for those in need, and gave free promotion to their local business partners who were open. This all happened at a time when these very stations were fighting to keep their own doors from closing, due to drastically reduced advertising revenue, upon which they rely to stay on the air.

Radio also plays music for free, not charging artists for this exposure. Broadcasters inform listeners about upcoming concerts in their areas and interview performers on air, introducing them to new audiences. This promotional value adds up to billions of dollars in free publicity.

Despite all of this, driven by massive multinational record labels, some are pushing for Congress to enact a new performance fee on local radio. This Congress, that proposal takes the form of the so-called "American Music Fairness Act." This bill would force local radio—on top of all the other fees it already pays when trying to rebound from pandemic-induced economic losses—to add yet another bill to that list.

Make no mistake – enacting this proposal would jeopardize the million jobs affected by the radio industry, as well as the fates of many local radio stations. Some would have to change formats to more talk or sports; others would cut back their involvement in local communities; and some would be forced to turn out the lights altogether. This would hurt not only the stations and their local communities, but the artists who rely on radio to broadcast them to the more than 90% of Americans who tune in each week.

For this reason, we ask you to oppose this dangerous proposal, and instead, to demonstrate your support for local broadcasters by supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act, which opposes any new performance fee. We thank you for your support and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sharon M. Tinsley



Alabama Broadcasters Association
Sharon Tinsley

Cathy Hiebert



Alaska Broadcasters Association
Cathy Hiebert

Christopher W. Kline



Arizona Broadcasters Association
Christopher Kline

Q. Luke Story



Arkansas Broadcasters Association
Luke Story

Joe Berry



California Broadcasters Association
Joe Berry

Justin Sasso



Colorado Broadcasters Association
Justin Sasso

Michael Patrick Ryan



Connecticut Broadcasters Association
Michael Patrick Ryan

C. Patrick Roberts



Florida Association of Broadcasters
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Bob Houghton



Georgia Association of Broadcasters
Bob Houghton

Jamie Hartnett



Hawaii Association of Broadcasters
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Lisa L Owens



Idaho State Broadcasters Association
Lisa Owens

Dennis Lyle



Illinois Broadcasters Association
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Dave Arland



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Lisa Reynolds



Iowa Broadcasters Association
Lisa Reynolds

Allison Mazzei



Kansas Association of Broadcasters
Allison Mazzei

Chris Winkle



Kentucky Broadcasters Association
Chris Winkle

Polly Prince Johnson



Louisiana Association of Broadcasters
Polly Prince Johnson

Dave Abel



Maine Association of Broadcasters
Dave Abel

Lisa Reynolds



Maryland/D.C./Delaware (MDCD) Broadcasters Association
Lisa Reynolds

Jordan Walton



Massachusetts Broadcasters Association
Jordan Walton

Sam Klemet



Michigan Association of Broadcasters
Sam Klemet

Wendy S. Paulson



Minnesota Broadcasters Association
Wendy Paulson

Amanda S. Fontaine

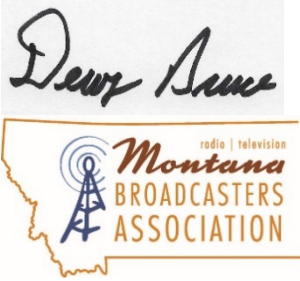


Mississippi Association of Broadcasters
Amanda Fontaine

Mark Gordon



Missouri Broadcasters Association
Mark Gordon



Montana Broadcasters Association
Dewey Bruce



Nebraska Broadcasters Association
Jim Timm



Nevada Broadcasters Association
Mitch Fox



New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters
Tracy Caruso



New Jersey Broadcasters Association
Paul Rotella



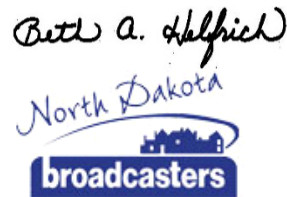
New Mexico Broadcasters Association
Paula Maes



New York State Broadcasters Association
David Donovan



North Carolina Association of Broadcasters
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North Dakota Broadcasters Association
Beth Helfrich

Christine Merritt



Ohio Association of Broadcasters
Christine Merritt

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Felix A Bonnet



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Laura Grott



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