June 3, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House United States House of Representatives H-232, U.S. Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

We are writing to express strong and unified opposition to H.R. 848, legislation that was voted out of the House Judiciary Committee by Chairman Conyers on Wednesday, May 13, 2009. H.R. 848 seeks to further burden the radio broadcast industry by requiring local radio to bear additional costs for the music which radio promotes and plays for free to the public.

We would also like to highlight that there is strong House opposition to the legislative effects of H.R. 848. H.Con.Res. 49, the Local Radio Freedom Act, introduced by Congressman Gene Green, is currently supported by over 218 bipartisan members of the U.S. House. Support for this resolution continues to increase on a weekly basis. The members signed on to H.Con.Res. 49 have expressed their opposition to the imposition of any new performance fee on local radio.

For more than 80 years, Congress has recognized the symbiotic relationship between local radio and the recording industry. The public outcry and recent controversy surrounding the mark up of H.R. 848 reflects the foreseeable negative consequences of the bill and the devastating impact it will have on local radio and the communities served with the delivery of emergency information, national defense information, news, weather, traffic, public service information and quality entertainment, including the introduction of new local and regional artists to the public.

The impact of H.R. 848 would also be hitting the radio broadcast industry in the midst of the terrible economic climate. America's radio broadcasters already pay half a billion dollars annually to composers and music publishers through ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. Mandating additional payments that will most directly benefit the record labels puts Congress in the position of siphoning off of hundreds of millions of dollars from local radio markets throughout America and sending most of those dollars overseas where the majority of record labels are headquartered. The Judiciary Committee is in the process of asking the GAO to study the impact of the bill on small, religious and minority-owned stations whose existence and future growth would be devastated under H.R. 848. Moving the bill before that study has been completed, made public and is evaluated would place the cart before the horse.

Please help ensure that radio remains a viable voice and that H.R. 848 is not sent to the House floor for a vote. We sincerely hope that you will take our concerns into consideration and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

America's 50 Independent State Broadcasters Associations

Dharm M. Junsley

Alabama Broadcasters Association Sharon Tinsley

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Alaska Broadcasters Association Darlene Simono





Arizona Broadcasters Association Art Brooks





Arkansas Broadcasters Association Jim McCall





California Broadcasters Association Stan Statham



Colorado Broadcasters Association

Colorado Broadcasters Association Marilyn Hogan

Michael C. Rive



Connecticut Broadcasters Association Mike Rice

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FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

Florida Association of Broadcasters Pat Roberts



Georgia Association of Broadcasters Jere Pigue





Hawaii Association of Broadcasters Stephanie Uyeda

Comie M. Levele



Idaho State Broadcasters Association Connie Searles



Illinois Broadcasters Association Dennis Lyle

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Indiana Broadcasters Association Linda Compton

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IDEA

Iowa Broadcasters Association Sue Toma

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Kansas Association of Broadcasters Kent Cornish

Gay R. White

КВА

Kentucky Broadcasters Association Gary White

Juice Marson

Broadcasters

Louisiana Association of Broadcasters Lou Munson

MMAJAOUCHEN



Maine Association of Broadcasters Suzanne Goucher



Maryland/D.C./Delaware (MDCD) Broadcasters Association Chip Weinman

Jeanna Raymond Gayny

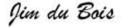
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Minnesota Broadcasters Association Jim du Bois

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Montana Broadcasters Association Greg MacDonald



Nebraska Broadcasters Association Marty Riemenschneider

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New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters Deanna Raymond

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NEW JERSEY BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

New Jersey Broadcasters Association Paul Rotella

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Broadcasters Association Paula Maes



New York State Broadcasters Association Joe Reilly

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North Carolina Association of Broadcasters

North Carolina Association of Broadcasters Wade Hargrove, Esq. Lisa Reynolds, Executive Manager

Beth A. Helfrich



North Dakota Broadcasters Association Beth Helfrich





**Ohio Association of Broadcasters** Chris Merritt

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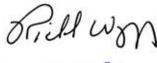
**Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters** Vance Harrison





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**Oregon Association of Broadcasters Bill Johnstone** 



Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Rich Wyckoff





**Radio Broadcasters Association** of Puerto Rico Jose A. Ribas Dominicci

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**Rhode Island Broadcasters Association** Lori Needham

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South Carolina Broadcasters Association Shani White

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South Dakota Broadcasters Association Steve Willard





Tennessee Association of Broadcasters Whit Adamson

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**Texas Association of Broadcasters** Ann Arnold





**Utah Broadcasters Association** Dale Zabriskie

Jim Condon



Vermont Association of Broadcasters Jim Condon



Virginia Association of Broadcasters Doug Easter, CAE

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Washington State Association of Broadcasters Mark Allen

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West Virginia Broadcasters Association Michele Crist

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Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Michelle Vetterkind, CAE

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