

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

Speaker Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We are writing to express significant concern regarding the negative impact that H.R. 848, "The Performance Rights Act," will have on our local communities and to respectfully request that this bill not be brought to the House floor, either as a stand-alone measure or as part of a larger legislative initiative.

Enactment of H.R. 848 could lead to the elimination of jobs in our communities. Radio stations employ over 100,000 employees nationwide. With the economic downturn, local radio stations have seen their revenues fall. Many are struggling to pay their bank notes and some are on the verge of filing for bankruptcy protection. Should Congress approve this new expense, some stations will face the reality of eliminating jobs in order to pay this new fee. Congress should avoid adding additional burdens to the already difficult employment situation local radio stations find themselves in today.

What we also find troubling is that the primary beneficiaries of the potentially billions of dollars generated under this legislation are the major record labels. Three of the four major record labels are owned by international entities on foreign shores. Passage of H.R. 848 would enrich those entities while putting thousands of American radio jobs at risk, harming local radio stations and our local communities.

As of today, 254 House members have cosponsored H. Con. Res. 49, the "Local Radio Freedom Act," expressing their opposition to the creation of a new radio performance royalty. Proponents of H.R. 848 are aware of the overwhelming opposition to their proposal and may attempt to advance their legislative agenda through inclusion on bills that are viewed as legislative priorities.

We reiterate the opposition of 254 House members to legislation that would impose a new fee on our local radio stations and urge you to reject attempts to waive points of order, or otherwise deviate from regular order, to allow H.R. 848 to pass despite the overwhelming opposition of House members.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.



Sincerely,



Chf Edwards

Rubin Hengosa

Mike R

Mike McIntyre

Jh P. Bl

Jim Boor

Anten Davis

Ad New

David W. Childers

Ron Kind

Dave Lockard

Alan L. Hartung

T. Held

Joseph D. B. Long

Bill Owens

TH

Charles A. Ziegler

Chl A W

Michael H. Michael

David Haeverson

Bobby Bright

Di C

Allen Boyd

John Miller
Gene / and
John P. Galt

Mark Schauer

Leonard E. Besant

Charles Melanson

Shelley D. Kelley

Charles B. Fangel

Jim Chevrolet

Jim Mattheum

Mary Jo Kirby

Harry Teague

Norm Dicks

Nicki Farrow

Alan Lewis

Brad Elsworth

Barb Stupak

Cole E. Cillee

John Russell

Billy & Ann

Lewin Davis

Stephanie Leath Gordin
C. M.

Vol. B. M.

John A. B. M.

Michael L. M.

Hy. Gordin
Joe. Country

James P. Hill

Michael E. McPherson

David Scott

