

January 19, 2023

Dear Colleague:

We write today to invite you to begin the 118th Congress by joining us in a bipartisan effort to support America's local radio stations as we prepare to reintroduce the Local Radio Freedom Act (H. Con. Res. 33 in the 117th Congress). This resolution – which has **enjoyed majority bipartisan support in the House in seven prior Congresses** – reaffirms Congress' longstanding support for the local radio stations that serve each of our communities and maintains that Congress should not impose new performance fees or taxes on local radio stations. Any such fee or tax would significantly jeopardize the ability of these local radio stations to serve our communities and constituents, including during times of local emergencies. This resolution attained 229 House cosponsors in the 117th Congress and we plan for even greater support this Congress.

Radio is still the most popular media platform in the country, with more than 9 out of 10 Americans tuning in each week. Our constituents rely on radio for local news, music, entertainment, sports, but most important of all, for life-saving information when emergencies strike. Unfortunately, major disasters battered our communities throughout 2022 and now in 2023. In addition to the unprecedented devastation wrought by Hurricanes Ian and Fiona, and the current epic flooding in California, Americans faced tornadoes in the southern states, severe storms throughout the Midwest, and wildfires and extreme flooding in the west. Before, during, and after such events, Americans turn to their local radio stations for critical news and information they need to find help and stay safe. All for free.


Local radio also continues to be the #1 source for discovering new music. Radio stations promote up-and-coming and established artists across all formats from playing their music, interviewing and celebrating them on-air, to promoting their concerts and music sales. This mutually beneficial and symbiotic relationship between local radio and recording artists of free music for free promotion has been a win-win for all parties for nearly a century and continues to be so today.


The massive, global recording industry continues to push for Congress to impose a new, one-sided and destructive performance fee on America's local radio stations, while making zero effort to engage constructively with broadcasters on consensus approaches that benefit both sides. Without exception, legislation they have promoted would subject all radio stations to such a fee, putting everyone's local stations and their communities at risk. Our constituents need us to remain vigilant to protect their access to free local radio that is able to continue to serve and protect them as much tomorrow as they do today. Your support as a cosponsor of the Local Radio Freedom Act does just that.

Deadline for original cosponsors is January 27, 2023. If you would like to cosponsor, please contact Jessica Powell in Rep. Womack's office at Jessica.Powell@mail.house.gov or Jake Barr

in Rep. Castor's office at Jake.Barr@mail.house.gov. We look forward to your support of this important resolution.

Sincerely,


Steve Womack
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress