

January 18, 2019

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

50 State Broadcasters Associations Urge Passage of the Bipartisan PIRATE Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McCarthy, McConnell and Schumer,

The undersigned broadcasters associations representing local, over-the-air broadcast stations in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico urge your swift consideration and passage of the Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement (PIRATE) Act (H.R. 583). The PIRATE Act would provide the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with critical new enforcement measures to combat pirate radio operations. Last Congress, substantially similar bipartisan legislation (H.R. 5709, 115th) passed the House of Representatives unanimously.

For years unauthorized pirate radio stations have harmed communities across the country by undermining the Emergency Alert System, interfering with airport communications, posing direct health risks and interfering with licensed stations' abilities to serve their listeners. The time has come to take significant steps to resolve this vexing problem.

The PIRATE Act gives the FCC additional tools to address the growing pirate radio problem. It provides the authority to levy increased fines up to \$100,000 per violation and \$2,000,000 in total. The PIRATE Act streamlines the enforcement process and requires the FCC to conduct pirate radio enforcement sweeps in cities with a concentration of pirate radio stations. It recognizes the importance of FCC coordination with federal, state and local law enforcement authorities. Finally, the PIRATE Act would create a database of all licensed radio stations operating in the AM and FM bands as well as those entities that have been subject to enforcement actions for illegal operation.

We are reaching the point where illegal pirate stations undermine the legitimacy and purpose of the FCC's licensing system to the detriment of listeners in communities across the country. The PIRATE Act will help the FCC restore integrity to the system. For these reasons, local broadcasters across our great nation fully support the bipartisan PIRATE Act and urge its swift passage without changes.

Respectfully,

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
C. Patrick Roberts

Bob Houghton



Georgia Association of Broadcasters
Bob Houghton

Jamie Hartnett



Hawaii Association of Broadcasters
Jamie Hartnett

Connie M. Searles



Idaho State Broadcasters Association
Connie Searles

Dennis Lyle



Illinois Broadcasters Association
Dennis Lyle

Dave Arland



Indiana Broadcasters Association
Dave Arland

Sue Toma



Iowa Broadcasters Association
Sue Toma

Kent M. Cornish



Kansas Association of Broadcasters
Kent Cornish

Chris Winkle



Kentucky Broadcasters Association
Chris Winkle

Polly Prince Johnson



Louisiana Association of Broadcasters
Polly Prince Johnson

Suzanne Goucher



Maine Association of Broadcasters
Suzanne Goucher

Lisa Reynolds



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

Jordan Walton



Massachusetts Broadcasters Association
Jordan Walton

Karole L. White



Michigan Association of Broadcasters
Karole L. White

Wendy S. Paulson



Minnesota Broadcasters Association
Wendy Paulson

Margaret C. Perkins

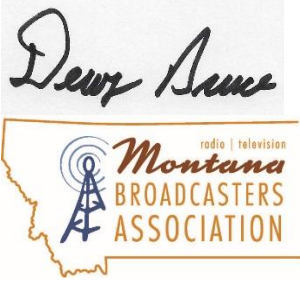


Mississippi Association of Broadcasters
Margaret Perkins

Mark Gordon



Missouri Broadcasters Association
Mark Gordon



Montana Broadcasters Association
Dewey Bruce



Nebraska Broadcasters Association
Jim Timm



Nevada Broadcasters Association
Mitch Fox



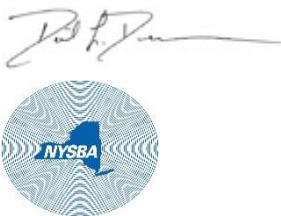
New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters
Tracy Caruso



New Jersey Broadcasters Association
Paul Rotella



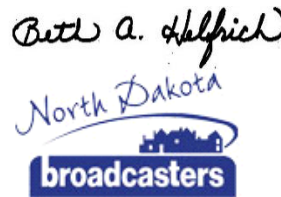
New Mexico Broadcasters Association
Paula Maes



New York State Broadcasters Association
David Donovan



North Carolina Association of Broadcasters
Lisa Reynolds



North Dakota Broadcasters Association
Beth Helfrich



Ohio Association of Broadcasters
Christine Merritt



Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters
Vance Harrison



Oregon Association of Broadcasters
John Tamerlano

Joe Conti



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS
Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters
Joe Conti

Jose A. Ribas



Radio Broadcasters Association of Puerto Rico
Jose A. Ribas Dominicci

Lori Needham



Rhode Island Broadcasters Association
Lori Needham

Margaret Wallace



South Carolina Broadcasters Association
Margaret Wallace

Steve Willard



South Dakota Broadcasters Association
Steve Willard

Whit Adamson



Tennessee Association of Broadcasters
Tennessee Association of Broadcasters
Whit Adamson

Oscar Rodriguez



Texas Association of Broadcasters
Oscar Rodriguez

Michele Zabriskie



Utah Broadcasters Association
Michele Zabriskie

Wendy Mays



Vermont Association of Broadcasters
Wendy Mays

Doug Easter



Virginia Association of Broadcasters
Doug Easter

Keith Shipman



Washington State Association of Broadcasters
Keith Shipman

Michele Crist



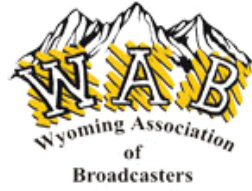
West Virginia Broadcasters Association
Michele Crist

Michelle Vetterkind



**Wisconsin Broadcasters
Association**
Michelle Vetterkind

Laura Grott



**Wyoming Association of
Broadcasters**
Laura Grott