



Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

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May 6, 2009

The Honorable John Conyers, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 848 – The “Performance Rights Act of 2009”

Dear Chairman Conyers:

On behalf of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the nation’s oldest, largest, and most diverse civil and human rights coalition, we are writing to urge you to delay any immediate action on H.R. 848, the “Performance Rights Act of 2009,” until the impact of the bill on women and minority broadcasters has been fully explored. We thank you for raising the concerns of artists about appropriate compensation for their work. However, as a champion of both artists and of media diversity, we are certain that you share our concern that any impact of additional costs to those women and minority broadcasters who are already struggling to stay afloat must be carefully examined.

We understand that both the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters and the American Women in Radio and Television oppose H.R. 848 because of the impact of the proposed bill on the viability of their businesses. We are concerned that the Performance Rights Act as it stands may actually limit media diversity. We urge you therefore to delay any immediate action on H.R. 848 and to conduct an additional hearing to fully air the issues that we and others have raised.

We thank you for considering our views, and look forward to your response. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact Corrine Yu, LCCR Senior Counsel at 202-466-5670, or Nancy Zirkin at 202-263-2880.

Sincerely,

Wade Henderson
President & CEO

Nancy Zirkin
Executive Vice President

“Equality In a Free, Plural, Democratic Society”

Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award Dinner • May 7, 2009