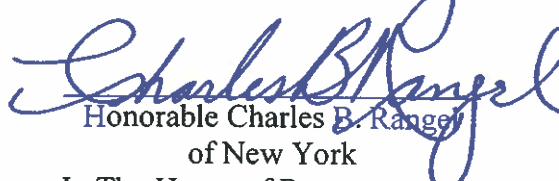




**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

  
Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
of New York  
In The House of Representatives

May 31, 2012

**THANKING OUR LOCAL BROADCASTERS FOR KEEPING US SAFE**

Tomorrow marks the official start of the 2012 hurricane season. As we prepare for the potential disasters that could strike our city, I want to recognize and thank the men and women who put their lives at risk and work 24/7 to provide lifesaving information to our local communities: America's broadcasters.

Local broadcasters are the most important source of vital emergency information for all Americans and serve as the backbone of the public warning system.

Everyone remembers Hurricane Irene from late last August. Although it had been downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it made landfall in New York, the city and my district narrowly escaped serious damages. The day after Irene hit, there was no service on the Metro-North Railroad and flooding along the Harlem Line. New York City Transit employees had to pump water out of the 148th Street/Lenox Subway Yard. In fact, my district office is only half a block from a Zone B evacuation area. Thankfully, the damage to New York City and my district from Irene was minimal, but next time we might not be so lucky. In any such event, the invaluable contribution of our local broadcasters will be critical to our safety.

Disasters like these remind us of the essential role that broadcasters play in our communities. Local radio and television stations provide our local communities with important news and other critical information, such as emergency and severe weather warnings and Amber alerts.

Broadcasters' commitment to public service is never more apparent than during times of crisis. During an emergency, no other service can match the ability of full power broadcasting to deliver comprehensive, up-to-date warnings and information to affected citizens. Television broadcasters reach millions of households across the country, while radio reaches more than 241 million Americans each week.

As the 2012 hurricane season gets underway and local communities continue to face erratic weather conditions, I feel safer knowing local broadcasters are dedicated and committed to saving lives by providing critical news and information to our local communities.