Dear Madam Speaker, Majority Leader, Majority Whip and Chairman:

We, the undersigned members, are writing to express our concern for H.R. 848, the “Performance Rights Act.”

At this time, Congress lacks adequate information on the overall impact that this legislation could have on local radio broadcasters and the potential disadvantages to our local communities that depend on radio to create jobs and bring residents their local news, emergency alert information, weather, and information on the activities of their elected governments.

We are further concerned by the assertions that this bill will unfairly divert money from our local communities and direct those funds primarily to large record labels. Such an act can have a serious economic and social impact on local radio broadcasters across the country.

Under the current regime, record labels have grown substantially and radio stations have worked to meet both their public and business obligations. The legislation at issue could alter this successful balance. To ensure that Congress does not act prematurely, we believe that there should be a careful and rigorous examination of the true economic, social and public impact that this legislation will have on our communities and its citizens. Congressional review thus far has been inadequate and we respectfully request your help in ensuring that the United States Congress is fully informed of the consequences of this critical legislation prior to any required vote.

Accordingly, we urge you to refrain from moving H.R. 848 to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives until such time as the impact of this legislation can be fully examined.

Sincerely,

Heath Shuler

Charlie Wilson
Michael Arcuri
John Barrow
Marion Berry
Dan Boren
Allen Boyd
Travis Childers
Henry Cuellar
Mike Thompson
Zack Space

Chet Edwards
Brad Ellsworth
Parker Griffith
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Tim Holden
Jim Matheson
Mike McIntyre
Charlie Melancon
Walter Minnick