

November 13, 2018

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 PIRATE Act

Dear Leaders 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. 5709). The bi-partisan PIRATE Act passed the House of Representatives unanimously and would provide the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with critical new enforcement measures to combat pirate radio operations.

For years unauthorized pirate radio stations have harmed communities across the country by interfering with licensed stations' abilities to serve their listeners, undermining the Emergency Alert System, interfering with airport communications and posing direct health and safety risks. 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. Upon prior notice, it holds liable persons, including property owners, who "knowingly" facilitate illegal pirate operations. 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. 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 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

C. 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
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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

Stephen M. Usery



Minnesota Broadcasters Association
Stephen Usery

Karla Hooten

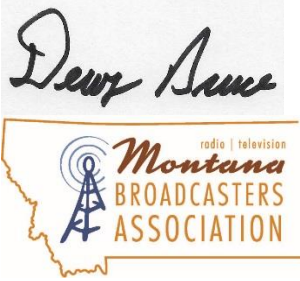


Mississippi Association of Broadcasters
Karla Hooten

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



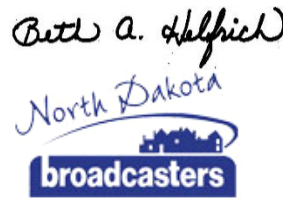
New Mexico Broadcasters Association
Paula Maes



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



Vermont Association of Broadcasters

Wally Caswell

Doug Easter



Virginia Association of Broadcasters

Doug Easter

Keith Shipman



Washington State Association of Broadcasters

Washington State Association of Broadcasters

Keith Shipman

Michele Crist



West Virginia Broadcasters Association

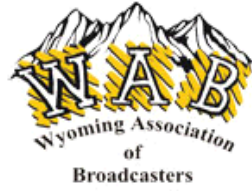
Michele Crist

Michelle Vetterkind



Wisconsin Broadcasters Association
Michelle Vetterkind

Laura Grott



Wyoming Association of Broadcasters
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