



NABOB

National Association of
Black Owned Broadcasters

June 15, 2021

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi, and Leaders Schumer, McConnell and McCarthy:

On behalf of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB), I write today to ask that you consider supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act (H. Con. Res. 33 and S. Con. Res. 9). This critical resolution would protect local radio stations that play music as part of their programming from being forced to pay significant additional new performance royalties. Local radio stations are fighting to recover from the economic hits caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Imposing a new copyright performance fee, on top of the substantial copyright fees we already pay, would further devastate local radio stations already struggling to stay afloat, while also ignoring the significant value free, local radio provides to both performers and listeners.

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NABOB is the first and only trade organization representing the interests of African-American owners of radio and television stations across the country. Founded in 1976 by a small group of African-American broadcasters, NABOB was established to give a voice and a viable presence in the industry to address specific concerns facing African-American broadcasters. Over the past 45 years, NABOB has grown into an important industry voice, working to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the broadcast industry.

Black and other minority-owned broadcasters are critical for serving the different needs of local audiences in a culturally appropriate way. As one of the communities most disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Black-owned businesses faced harsh economic repercussions due to the downturn in the economy. Most broadcasters experienced a drop in advertising revenue when businesses shut down during the pandemic. For minority broadcasters, the drop-off in advertising revenue was extremely severe.

Local Black owned radio stations provide life-saving news and information, education, and entertainment to the communities we serve. We also provide free exposure and promotion for the recording industry and performers through radio air play, interviews, introduction of new performers, concert publicity, music videos, and merchandise associated with performers. A performance royalty would create severe economic hardships for local Black owned radio stations, and in so doing would jeopardize local jobs and harm local radio listeners.

The Local Radio Freedom Act reinforces crucial protections from burdensome performance royalty fees that would further devastate Black owned broadcasters during an already incredibly difficult time. I respectfully urge you to express your strong support of the Local Radio Freedom Act in support of Black and other minority-owned broadcasters, who are a lifeline for the communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Winston", with a stylized, flowing script.

James Winston
President
National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters