



# NABOB

National Association of  
Black Owned Broadcasters

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Jerry Nadler  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
2142 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Jordan:

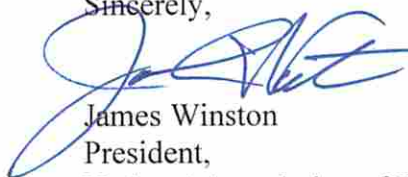
On behalf of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB), I write in opposition to H.R. 4130 – the American Music Fairness Act. This legislation would impose a new performance royalty on local radio stations, potentially financially crippling many local radio stations and harming the millions of listeners who rely on local radio for news, emergency information, weather updates and entertainment.

As African American owned radio stations, as well as stations serving other underserved communities, have struggled to survive the downturn in the economy caused by the COVID pandemic, we have remained on-air, providing life-saving news and information, education, and entertainment to the communities we serve. And because we are on-air, we also provide free exposure and promotion for the recording industry and performers through free radio air play, interviews, introduction of new performers, concert publicity, music videos, and social media marketing. Free radio airplay provides the recording industry increased popularity, visibility and sales for both established and new artists. In fact, an industry study estimates that radio's free promotion is worth more than \$2.4 billion annually to record labels. Imposing a new performance royalty would create severe economic hardships for local African American owned radio stations, as well as stations serving other underserved communities, and in so doing would jeopardize local jobs and harm local radio listeners.

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On the other hand, NABOB supports the Local Radio Freedom Act (H. Con. Res. 33, S. Con. Res. 9). During an already incredibly difficult time, the Local Radio Freedom Act reinforces crucial protections from burdensome performance royalty fees that would further devastate African American owned broadcasters, and other broadcasters serving underserved communities. NABOB thanks the 200 plus cosponsors of this bipartisan resolution, and we respectfully urge you to support minority-owned broadcasters, who are a lifeline for the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Winston", is written over the typed name.

James Winston  
President,  
National Association of Black Owned  
Broadcasters, Inc.

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, NABOB was established to give African American broadcasters a voice and a viable presence in the broadcasting industry and to address specific concerns facing African American broadcasters. NABOB's members continue to be the voices of our communities and the most effective way to engage with the African American community.