

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Capitol Building S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Capitol Building S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Speaker Pro Tempore
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Capitol Building H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McHenry, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our support for the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act (S. 1669; H.R. 3413). This bipartisan, bicameral legislation would require the Transportation Secretary to issue a rule requiring vehicles manufactured in, or imported into, the U.S. to have devices installed that provide access to AM radio. It would also, among other things, ensure that AM stations are conspicuous to the driver in the dash and require motor vehicles that do not include AM radio (*in the interim period between enactment and prior to the Transportation Secretary issuing the new rule*) to be clearly labeled as such to consumers.

AM radio is an essential communications medium in rural America. Local news, weather, and sports reporters are recognized as respected sources for information that affects the lives of millions of rural residents. Commodity market reports are called into local radio stations every day across the country and well-known agriculture broadcasters remain a trusted source for valuable market reporting and updates. There are more than 4,470 licensed AM stations across the country, with over a third of those stations broadcasting this type of agricultural programming. More than 40 percent of radio listeners are tuning in from their cars or trucks.

AM radio is also able to carry a strong signal over significant distances - up to 700 miles - even during catastrophic weather events. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) system relies on AM broadcasts to deliver critical public safety information in the event of a public safety or national security emergency. When the power goes out in rural America, and cell networks are down, households are still able to access that emergency information through their car radio.

Whether it be the routine or the unexpected, U.S. farmers and ranchers rely on the information transmitted through AM radio to make decisions that affect their everyday lives. The undersigned organizations urge Congress to prevent rural communities from losing access to their favorite local programming by ensuring that AM radio continues to be a free, standard feature in all vehicles.

Sincerely,

Independent Beef Association of North Dakota
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
Latino Farmers & Ranchers International, Inc.
Livestock Marketing Association
National Grange
National Farmers Union
North Dakota Farmers Union
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
U.S. Cattlemen's Association
Women Involved in Farm Economics