

# Oppose a Performance Tax on Local Radio Broadcasters

- For several Congresses, the big recording industry has lobbied Congress to adopt legislation that would impose a devastating new fee, or performance “tax,” paid to performers and record labels, on local radio stations simply for playing music on the radio.
- A performance tax would financially hamstring local radio stations, stifle new artists and harm the listening public who rely on local radio.
- The value of local radio to record labels and performers is well recognized. For more than 80 years, free radio airplay has provided the recording industry unparalleled visibility and record sales.
- Local radio touches more than 240 million Americans each week, a number that dwarfs the reach of Internet and satellite radio.
- Fortunately, Congress has long recognized the inherent value of free radio promotion for record labels and performers and has repeatedly declined to impose a performance tax on radio broadcasters.
- Reps. Mike Conaway (TX-11) and Gene Green (TX-29) have reintroduced the Local Radio Freedom Act, a resolution opposed to any new performance tax on free broadcast radio. A companion resolution is sponsored by Sens. John Barrasso (WY) and Heidi Heitkamp (ND). In the last Congress, a bipartisan majority of the House of Representatives cosponsored the Local Radio Freedom Act.
- The House Judiciary Committee has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Copyright Act and the big record labels have added a new performance tax to their wish list in that process. Cosponsorship of the Local Radio Freedom Act sends a strong signal that Congress should not use the Copyright Act to impose new fees on local radio stations.
- Recent private agreements between individual broadcasters and record labels that compensate artists for both Internet and over-the-air play further demonstrate that this issue is more appropriately addressed through individual marketplace agreements than a one-size-fits-all government mandate.

**Will you cosponsor the Local Radio Freedom Act, and stand with your local broadcasters in opposing a congressionally-mandated performance tax?**