



November 1, 2022

Senator Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin:

Music creators work incredibly hard to make the sound recordings we all know, love and value. But as we kick off Music Fairness Awareness Month today, the United States continues to be the only democratic nation in the world where artists like us are not compensated when our music is played on AM/FM radio. Thankfully, legislation was just introduced to right this injustice that has robbed artists of their fair compensation for decades. We urge you to join us in the fight for fair compensation for music creators by supporting the American Music Fairness Act.

The American Music Fairness Act — a bipartisan piece of legislation that was just introduced in the Senate by Senators Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), after being initially introduced in the House by Representatives Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Ted Deutch (D-FL) last year — would require U.S. broadcasters to finally compensate artists when our songs are played on domestic AM/FM radio. This bill, which is identical to the bipartisan H.R. 4130 currently being considered by the House Judiciary Committee, would level the playing field, asking radio broadcasters to play by the same rules as digital platforms, streaming services and others who already pay artists when they use our music.

For decades now, corporate broadcasters have used an antiquated loophole to play unlimited music for free. We have watched as giant radio corporations have continued to grow, raking in billions in advertising dollars while refusing to pay a single cent to us, the artists behind the music that attracts their advertisers in the first place and makes their entire business model possible.

This unjust status quo not only harms American artists at home, but also hurts us abroad. The vast majority of foreign nations — those who *do* already pay artists for radio airplay — currently withhold royalties from American music creators when our songs get played in their countries, simply because the United States does not reciprocate by paying their artists here. This amounts to approximately \$200 million every year in lost income for American artists. By supporting the American Music

Fairness Act, you can ensure that this money flows back to the United States.

Even as the radio industry continues to see consolidation into large clusters of corporate-owned stations, we recognize the important role that locally-owned broadcasters play in our communities. With this in mind, we are pleased that the American Music Fairness Act includes strong protections for truly local radio stations – including allowing small, college and non-commercial stations to pay less than \$2 per day for unlimited music. This will provide these crucial local broadcasters with the affordability and certainty they need to thrive.

We're not alone in our call for fairness. An overwhelming majority of Americans stand with artists on this issue. A recent national poll commissioned by musicFIRST – the voice for fairness and equity for music creators – found that 61% of American voters believe it's unfair that artists don't get paid when their songs are played on the radio. And 70% support Congress taking action to address this injustice by passing legislation such as the American Music Fairness Act.

As we commemorate Music Fairness Awareness Month this November, it is an important time to recognize the many positive ways in which music shapes our world and our culture. These past few years have been particularly challenging, and the music we love played a crucial role in pulling us all through those dark and difficult times. It's time for our nation to align with the rest of the developed world and ensure that our hard-working artists are compensated fairly.

We appreciate your support and timely action on this much-needed legislation. We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure our hard-working artists here in the United States finally receive the compensation they are due.

Sincerely,

December 6, 2022 signatories

Harry Belafonte	Common	The Roots
Dionne Warwick	Jack White	Elvis Costello
David Byrne	Four Tops	Temptations
Estate of Mary Wilson (of The Supremes)	Randy Travis	Roseanne Cash
Becky G	Julia Michaels	Nile Rodgers

They Might Be Giants	OK Go	Aimee Mann
Matthew Montfort	Maggie Vail	Willie Nile
David Pack	Lizz Wright	The Stone Foxes
The RTs	Satellite Mode	Mark Charles
Blake Morgan	Aleks Syntek	Los Rabanes
El Gran Silencio	Inspector	Jenny & The Mexicats
Kemo The Blaxican	Mac McCaughan (of Superchunk)	Jimi Haha (of Jimmie's Chicken Shack)
Samuray	Suzanne Vega	The Whites
Ricky Skaggs	Merck Mercuriadis	

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Kevin Bacon	Cyndi Lauper	Gloria Estefan
HANSON	Peter Frampton	Jackson Browne
Sammy Hagar	Pat Benatar	Sheila E
Dan Aykroyd	Deana Carter	Rick Springfield
Sam Moore	Indigo Girls	Kevin Cronin
Chris Difford	Jon Secada	BeBe Winans
Ricky Minor	Neil Girardo	Indigo De Souza
Laura Ballance	Ryan Hemsworth	Emilio Castillo
Caroline Rose	The Faint	Josh Norek
Kevin Duquette	Daniel Cast	Lenora Zenzalai Helm
Cyrille-Aimée Daudel	John Ferraiolo	Alexandra Levy

Reed Watson	Jake Bellows	James Guttman
Jonatha Brooke	lespecial	King Lyte
Meg Duffy	Benny Turner	Jennifer "Lil' Red" Milligan
Rob Stone	April N Smith	Mike Guldin
William A Jones	Leo Flynn	Mark "Kaz" Kazanoff
Gregg "MacDaddy" Martinez	Eric Johanson	Laura Tate
Equasta White	Tiffany Pollack	Miss Bix
Veronica Swift	Kathy Murray	Darrell Garrett
Oly.Lo	Joe Vannelli	Kristyn Coster
KJ Carter	Kevin Ray	