December 6, 2022

In advance of the House Judiciary Committee's markup on the American Music Fairness Act (H.R. 4130), our groups would like to reiterate our support for this legislation.

As supporters of community broadcasting, including community radio, college radio, and Low Power FM, we believe that the relationship between community stations and musicians should continue to be mutually supportive. AMFA accomplishes this by offering a balanced approach, ensuring that performing musicians are compensated, as is already the case in most of the world, without placing an undue burden on small and noncommercial broadcasters.

As we noted at the bill's introduction, the proposed royalty carveout for noncommercial stations is both affordable ($100) and predictable; it won't go up in the future. For the smallest stations with budgets under $100,000, the proposed fee is even lower: only ten dollars annually.

Community broadcasters and independent media often feature local artists, genres, and viewpoints absent from most commercial radio playlists. They give voice to the experiences, concerns, and creativity of diverse populations. Musicians understand this, and have been strong advocates for expanded LPFM opportunities. H.R. 4130 reflects an understanding of the unique role that community broadcasters play, as well as these stations' limited financial resources. As the Committee considers this legislation, we hope our perspective will be kept in mind.

Alliance for Community Media
Common Frequency
Media Alliance
National Federation of Community Broadcasters
Prometheus Radio Project
REC Networks

About the signatory organizations

Alliance for Community Media was founded in 1976, and represents over 3,000 Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access organizations and community media center throughout the country.

Common Frequency is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to innovative new community and college radio. By providing free and low-cost aid to regular people educating themselves to be the media, Common Frequency (CF) has been supporting the launch of grassroots stations since 2006.

Media Alliance was founded in 1976 by Bay Area media workers who wanted deeper connections with social justice movements and a communications system that worked in the interests of peace, justice and social responsibility.Forty-six years later, we are one of the oldest media change organizations in the United States.

National Federation of Community Broadcasters was founded in 1975, and is the oldest and largest national organization dedicated to community stations within the public media system.

Prometheus Radio Project builds participatory radio as a tool for social justice organizing and a voice for community expression. To that end, we demystify media policy and technology, advocate for a more just media system, and help grassroots organizations build communications infrastructure to strengthen their communities and movements.

REC Networks has operated since 1984, and has been one of the leading policy advocacy organizations who are defending and supporting the LPFM service and the grassroots radio movement.