

As you may know, S. 379/H.R. 848 was introduced last year on behalf of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the large, foreign-owned record labels.

S. 379/H.R. 848 requires that radio stations pay a new “performance fee” to the big record labels for the music that airs today for free on the radio. As your constituent, I ask that you oppose S. 379/H.R. 848 because of the harm that it will cause on our local radio stations, which are valuable community assets.

S. 379/H.R. 848 would impose a new “tax” on radio, which is already under significant strain. This legislation will take dollars that our station could invest in the local community and will send that money to big internationally owned record companies. More Americans will lose jobs in this difficult economy so rich foreign conglomerates can get richer.

A symbiotic relationship has existed between local radio stations and the recording industry for the last 80 years. Record labels and performers thrive from free radio airplay, and local radio benefits from advertising dollars generated from playing the music. This free airplay touches nearly 235 million listeners a week, and provides the big record labels and their artists increased popularity, visibility and record sales. It’s free play for free promotion, and it works.

The system we have in place today fairly compensates everyone — the radio and the recording industry alike. Although the big record labels have seen their revenues decline over the last decade, local radio broadcasters are not the reason the recording industry is losing money, and the burden should not fall on the radio industry and require the sacrifice of American jobs to fix it.

Please cosponsor S. Con. Res. 14/ H. Con. Res. 49, the Local Radio Freedom Act, and oppose S. 379/H.R. 848 which would impose new fees which the radio industry cannot afford.

Sincerely,