

May 7, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

## **50 State Broadcasters Associations Urge Passage of the Bipartisan PIRATE Act**

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer,

The undersigned broadcasters associations representing local, over-the-air broadcast stations in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico urge your swift consideration and passage of the Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement (PIRATE) Act (S. 1228). The PIRATE Act would provide the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with critical new enforcement measures to combat pirate radio operations. On February 25th, identical bipartisan legislation (H.R. 583) passed the House of Representatives unanimously.

For years unauthorized pirate radio stations have harmed communities across the country by undermining the Emergency Alert System, interfering with airport communications, posing direct health risks and interfering with licensed stations' abilities to serve their listeners. The time has come to take significant steps to resolve this vexing problem.

The PIRATE Act gives the FCC additional tools to address the growing pirate radio problem. It provides the authority to levy increased fines up to \$100,000 per violation and \$2,000,000 in total. The PIRATE Act streamlines the enforcement process and requires the FCC to conduct pirate radio enforcement sweeps in cities with a concentration of pirate radio stations. It recognizes the importance of FCC coordination with federal, state and local law enforcement authorities. Finally, the PIRATE Act would create a database of all licensed radio stations operating in the AM and FM bands as well as those entities that have been subject to enforcement actions for illegal operation.

We are reaching the point where illegal pirate stations undermine the legitimacy and purpose of the FCC's licensing system to the detriment of listeners in communities across the country. The PIRATE Act will help the FCC restore integrity to the system. For these reasons, local broadcasters across our great nation fully support the bipartisan PIRATE Act and urge its swift passage without changes.

Respectfully,

*Sharon M. Tinsley*



**Alabama Broadcasters Association**  
Sharon Tinsley

*Cathy Hiebert*



**Alaska Broadcasters Association**  
Cathy Hiebert

*Christopher W. Kline*



**Arizona Broadcasters Association**  
Christopher Kline

*C. Luke Story*



**Arkansas Broadcasters Association**  
Luke Story

*Joe Berry*



**California Broadcasters Association**  
Joe Berry

*Justin Sasso*



**Colorado Broadcasters Association**  
Justin Sasso

*Michael Patrick Ryan*



**Connecticut Broadcasters Association**  
Michael Patrick Ryan

*C. Patrick Roberts*



**Florida Association of Broadcasters**  
C. Patrick Roberts

*Bob Houghton*



**Georgia Association of Broadcasters**  
Bob Houghton

*Jamie Hartnett*



**Hawaii Association of Broadcasters**  
Jamie Hartnett

*Connie M. Searles*



**Idaho State Broadcasters Association**  
Connie Searles

*Dennis Lyle*



**Illinois Broadcasters Association**  
Dennis Lyle

*Dave Arland*



**Indiana Broadcasters Association**  
Dave Arland

*Sue Toma*



**Iowa Broadcasters Association**  
Sue Toma

*Kent M. Cornish*



**Kansas Association of Broadcasters**  
Kent Cornish

*Chris Winkle*



**Kentucky Broadcasters Association**  
Chris Winkle

*Polly Prince Johnson*



**Louisiana Association of Broadcasters**  
Polly Prince Johnson

*Suzanne Goucher*



**Maine Association of Broadcasters**  
Suzanne Goucher

*Lisa Reynolds*



**Maryland/D.C./Delaware (MDCD) Broadcasters Association**  
Lisa Reynolds

*Jordan Walton*



**Massachusetts Broadcasters Association**  
Jordan Walton

*Karole L. White*



**Michigan Association of Broadcasters**  
Karole L. White

*Wendy S. Paulson*



**Minnesota Broadcasters Association**  
Wendy Paulson

*Margaret C. Perkins*

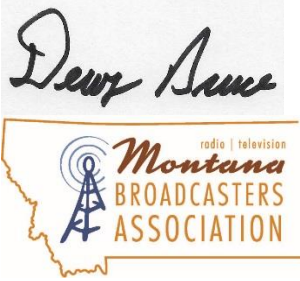


**Mississippi Association of Broadcasters**  
Margaret Perkins

*Mark Gordon*



**Missouri Broadcasters Association**  
Mark Gordon



**Montana Broadcasters Association**  
Dewey Bruce



**Nebraska Broadcasters Association**  
Jim Timm



**Nevada Broadcasters Association**  
Mitch Fox



**New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters**  
Tracy Caruso



**New Jersey Broadcasters Association**  
Paul Rotella



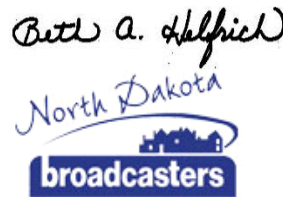
**New Mexico Broadcasters Association**  
Paula Maes



**New York State Broadcasters Association**  
David Donovan



**North Carolina Association of Broadcasters**  
Lisa Reynolds



**North Dakota Broadcasters Association**  
Beth Helfrich



**Ohio Association of Broadcasters**  
Christine Merritt



**Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters**  
Vance Harrison



**Oregon Association of Broadcasters**  
John Tamerlano

*Joe Conti*



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS  
**Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters**  
Joe Conti

*Jose A. Ribas*



**Radio Broadcasters Association of Puerto Rico**  
Jose A. Ribas Dominicci

*Lori Needham*



**Rhode Island Broadcasters Association**  
Lori Needham

*Margaret Wallace*



**South Carolina Broadcasters Association**  
Margaret Wallace

*Steve Willard*



**South Dakota Broadcasters Association**  
Steve Willard

*Whit Adamson*



Tennessee Association of Broadcasters  
**Tennessee Association of Broadcasters**  
Whit Adamson

*Oscar Rodriguez*



**Texas Association of Broadcasters**  
Oscar Rodriguez

*Michele Zabriskie*



**Utah Broadcasters Association**  
Michele Zabriskie

*Wendy Mays*



**Vermont Association of Broadcasters**  
Wendy Mays

*Doug Easter*



**Virginia Association of Broadcasters**  
Doug Easter

*Keith Shipman*



**Washington State Association of Broadcasters**  
Keith Shipman

*Michele Crist*



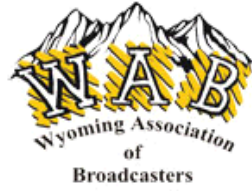
**West Virginia Broadcasters Association**  
Michele Crist

*Michelle Vetterkind*



**Wisconsin Broadcasters Association**  
Michelle Vetterkind

*Laura Grott*



**Wyoming Association of Broadcasters**  
Laura Grott