

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0010

Radio stations.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Diercks and Berger and
Senator(s) Burns, Mockler and Townsend

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to support the local
2 radio freedom act.

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4 WHEREAS, Wyoming citizens enjoy broadcasting and sound
5 recording industries that are the envy of the world, due to
6 the symbiotic relationship that has existed among these
7 industries for many decades; and

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9 WHEREAS, for more than eighty (80) years the Unites States
10 Congress has rejected repeated calls by the recording
11 industry to impose a performance fee on local radio
12 stations for simply playing music on the radio and
13 upsetting the mutually beneficial relationship between
14 local radio and the recording industry; and

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1 WHEREAS, local radio stations provide free publicity and
2 promotion to the recording industry and performers of music
3 in the form of radio air play, interviews with performers,
4 introduction of new performers, concert promotions and
5 publicity that promotes the sale of new music, concert
6 tickets, ring tones, music videos and assorted merchandise;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, Congress found that the sale of many sound
10 recordings and the careers of many performers benefited
11 considerably from airplay and other promotional activities
12 provided by both noncommercial and advertiser-supported,
13 free over-the-air broadcasting; and

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15 WHEREAS, local radio broadcasters provide tens of thousands
16 of hours of essential local news and weather information
17 during times of national emergencies and natural disasters,
18 such as September 11 and hurricanes such as Katrina and
19 Rita, as well as public affairs programming, sports and
20 hundreds of millions of dollars of time for public service
21 announcements and local fund raising efforts for worthy
22 charitable causes, all of which are jeopardized if local
23 radio stations are forced to divert revenues to pay for a
24 new performance fee; and

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2 WHEREAS, there are many local Wyoming radio stations that
3 will suffer severe economic hardship if any new performance
4 fee is imposed, as will many other small businesses that
5 play music including bars, restaurants, retail
6 establishments, sports and other entertainment venues,
7 shopping centers and transportation facilities; and

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9 WHEREAS, the hardship that would result from a new
10 performance fee would hurt Wyoming businesses and
11 ultimately the Wyoming consumers who rely on local radio
12 for news, weather and entertainment; and such a performance
13 fee is not justified when the current system has produced
14 the most prolific and innovative broadcasting, music and
15 sound recording industries in the world.

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17 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*
18 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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20 **Section 1.** That the State of Wyoming urges Congress
21 to not impose any new performance fee, tax, royalty or
22 other charge relating to the public performance of sound
23 recordings on a local radio station for broadcasting sound

1 recordings over-the-air, or on any business for such public
2 performance of sound recordings.

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4 **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming
5 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the
6 United States, to the President of the Senate and the
7 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United
8 States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional
9 Delegation.

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11 (END)