



musicFIRSTcoalition.org

Recently several minority organizations asked you to oppose outright or delay action on H.R. 848, the Performance Rights Act. We are writing to let you know that creation of a fair performance right on radio is long overdue.

Any further delay keeps in place a system that has allowed AM and FM radio stations to use and prosper from our work without fairly compensating us and the tens of thousands of artists and musicians who bring music to life and listeners ears to the radio dial.

This injustice dates back to the early days of radio. Today, the United States stands alone among the developed nations in denying a performance right on radio. We stand in the company of countries like North Korea, Iran and China in denying this right to performers and rights holders.

As minority artists, we support a strong and vibrant local radio industry. We know that minority broadcasters play a vital role in our communities. And we support efforts to create accommodations in the legislation for small, minority-owned stations.

But the creation of a fair performance right cannot be delayed further. We have already waited far too long. "Not now" is not an acceptable answer.

The Performance Rights Act will have a real and positive economic impact in the lives of working musicians and recording artists and help ensure the continued vitality and diversity of American music and culture.

Please support Chairman Conyers' effort to create a performance right on radio that is fair to artists and musicians, fair to other radio platforms and fair to radio.

Sincerely,

Sam Moore

Dionne Warwick

Abdul "Duke" Fakir

Gary Hines for Sounds of Blackness

Jerry Butler

Roy Ayers

Dionne Farris

Martha Reeves

Crystal Waters

Jon Secada

Monte*Rosa

Whodini

Gary U.S. Bonds