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December 8, 2025

The Honorable Thom Tillis
Chair, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Tillis, Ranking Member Schiff, and Members of the Subcommittee:

I write in support of the American Music Fairness Act (S. 326). The Consumer Technology Association represents the companies that build the technologies Americans use every day, from streaming services to audio devices to the platforms shaping the future of entertainment. Eighty percent of our members are startups and small businesses. We also own and produce CES, the most powerful tech event in the world.

Our companies create, distribute, and rely on recorded music across a wide range of products and services. They operate in a market where legacy radio broadcasters continue to benefit from a special government privilege built for a different century.

Today, artists receive nothing when their work plays on AM or FM radio, even though satellite radio and every major streaming service pay artists for the exact same music. This is not a technical glitch in the law. It is a longstanding injustice that props up a small number of large broadcast corporations and places modern technology companies at a disadvantage.

Broadcasters earn billions each year from music programming without paying the people who create the value. The United States is now the only major country that still allows this. China pays artists. Russia pays artists. Nearly every modern democracy

pays artists. America should not stand alone on the wrong side of something this basic, especially in an era defined by creativity and innovation.

The American Music Fairness Act corrects this imbalance by restoring a simple principle. If you create music value, you should be paid for it. This is a bedrock principle of our system. We reward the people who build, invent, and create; we do not ask them to subsidize the business models of large incumbents. The Act brings music policy back into line with common sense and fairness and signals that America still backs its creators in a competitive world.

The Senate is also considering the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act, which would require an AM radio in every new car sold in the United States. Requiring consumers to support a platform while allowing it to operate without paying creators would lock in a system that already costs working musicians hundreds of millions of dollars every year. America does not win the future by holding onto rules or technologies that no longer match how people live, create, or listen.

Fixing this injustice strengthens America's creative economy. It supports the independent artists who form the backbone of the modern music ecosystem. More, it creates a fairer, more competitive environment for the technologies our members build while bringing the U.S. in line with global standards. Fair rules build strong markets. Strong markets drive innovation. Innovation moves the country forward.

I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee and its Subcommittee on Intellectual Property to support S. 326 and ensure that recording artists are paid when their work is broadcast on terrestrial radio. CTA stands ready to work with you and help move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Shapiro", written over a thin vertical line.

Gary Shapiro
CEO & Vice Chair
Consumer Technology Association