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January 24, 2025

**Curtis LeGeyt, President and Chief Executive Officer**  
National Association of Broadcasters  
via email.

Dear Curtis,

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) and the Consumer Technology Association (CTA)<sup>®</sup> share a belief in world-changing innovation—we certainly see it from the innovative manufacturers that exhibit in our respective trade shows. That's why I remain puzzled about why NAB is still calling for a mandate requiring AM radio in all new cars. This mandate is anti-innovation, anti-choice, and raises costs for American automakers.

**With the 118th session of Congress behind us, I urge you to reconsider your support for the *AM Radio For Every Vehicle Act*.** During the last session, Congressional leaders raised serious concerns about the mandate. These include questions about the 'public safety' reasoning for the mandate. Very few Americans actually receive emergency alerts via AM radio in their cars, with a [CTA study](#) showing only 1% of U.S. adults heard an emergency alert test on AM radio. FEMA has acknowledged that "the public is moving away from radio and broadcast/cable television as the primary channels for news and information."

Leaders in Congress also shared concerns over fair compensation for artists on radio programming. As you know, AM and FM are the only forms of radio that don't pay performers for their work. We join others who believe this is fundamentally unfair. If legislation to mandate AM radio moves forward this Congressional session, CTA will urge that the legislation also require AM and FM radio broadcasters to pay performance royalties to artists.

We're long-time partners and support broadcast media. Sadly, NAB's campaign to mandate AM radio has shown that demand for AM radio is decreasing, compared to FM, satellite, and mobile platforms. Still, we expect most automakers will continue to offer AM radio as a standard feature in the near-term. Instead of focusing on mandates, we hope you will focus your energy and resources on a market-based approach to growing AM radio. On behalf of CTA, I am happy to discuss how we can support positive growth that lifts all broadcasters and content creators.

If you continue to support the mandate, I ask that you release statistics to back up safety-related claims. This includes the number of AM radio stations with full-time and around-the-clock local staff who can share emergency information. We understand that most AM stations do not have full-time employees, raising questions about their capacity to fulfill this role in real time. If that's not the case, I am happy to be corrected. To advance the conversation, Congress needs and deserves transparency and independently verified data.

For most of my career, NAB and CTA have worked together to promote innovative technologies that benefit the world and our members, including NAB and CES<sup>®</sup> show exhibitors. It's disheartening to find us at odds over a Luddite proposal mandating aging technology in modern vehicles. Instead of fighting over yesterday's technology, I hope to see us partner on a voluntary transition to next-generation platforms that meet the needs and habits of today's consumers.

Curtis, I realize that we lead our industries in different ways and our priorities don't always align, but I believe there are ways we can work together that honor our shared legacy of innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Shapiro".

Gary Shapiro  
CEO and Vice Chair  
Consumer Technology Association