



Proponent Testimony of HCR 5026
For the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Chairman Rahjes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 5026 on behalf of the 260 broadcast stations that are members of the KAB.

As president of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters (KAB), I urge the Kansas Legislature to pass House Concurrent Resolution 5026, acknowledging the vital role that radio plays in the lives of Kansans. Radio serves as a cornerstone of communication, providing essential information and ensuring public safety across our state. Particularly, AM radio stands as the backbone of the National Emergency Alert System, delivering critical alerts and warnings during times of crisis, including severe weather events, natural disasters, and other emergencies. In rural areas where other forms of communication may be limited, radio remains a lifeline for many Kansans, offering timely updates and guidance to help keep communities safe.

The AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act, proposed in the 118th Congress, aims to enhance access to AM radio by requiring that all new vehicles sold in the United States come equipped with AM radio receivers. This legislation recognizes the enduring importance of AM radio in providing emergency information and ensuring nationwide access to essential broadcasts. By ensuring that every vehicle on the road is equipped with AM radio capabilities, this act would bolster the effectiveness of the National Emergency Alert System and help safeguard the well-being of all Americans, including those in rural and underserved areas.

The Kansas Association of Broadcasters has diligently advocated for the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act, meeting with every member of our state's federal delegation to garner support for this crucial legislation. We are pleased to report that each member has acknowledged the significance of AM radio and has committed to co-sponsoring the bill. Their recognition of the vital role that radio plays in serving the public interest underscores the bipartisan nature of this initiative and reflects a shared commitment to enhancing emergency communication capabilities nationwide.

In light of this bipartisan support at the federal level, the Kansas Association of Broadcasters urges the Kansas Legislature to demonstrate its support for this important federal effort by passing House Concurrent Resolution 5026. By doing so, Kansas will affirm its commitment to the preservation and promotion of radio broadcasting, ensuring that our state remains prepared to effectively communicate critical information and protect the safety and well-being of all Kansans.

In conclusion, the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 5026 is a critical step toward advancing the goals of the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act and strengthening emergency communication capabilities in Kansas and across the nation. We urge the Kansas Legislature to support this resolution and affirm its commitment to the essential role of radio in safeguarding public safety and serving the needs of our communities. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

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