

ASHLEY MOODY
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA



BRENNA BIRD
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF IOWA

October 3, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United State House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: *AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2024*

Dear All:

As many of our States continue to suffer devastating effects from Hurricane Helene, we, Attorneys General of twelve States, write to express our support for the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act. The Act—which would require automobile manufacturers to include access to AM radio in new motor vehicles—protects an important part of our nation’s communications network that is a vital resource for emergency preparedness and public safety. Many of us have long been vocal supporters of this important communications medium,¹ so we are pleased to see robust bipartisan support for the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act.

¹ <https://www.myfloridalegal.com/sites/default/files/2023-06/am-radio-letter.pdf>.

Each of our States experience natural disasters and other public safety emergencies. While those disasters vary across our many communities—from hurricanes in Florida to tornadoes in Iowa—AM radio is the constant support network that provides life-saving information to our citizens. During emergencies, it is vitally important that federal, state, and local officials be able to deliver emergency warnings and other information to their citizens. AM radio signals travel greater distances as compared to FM, and citizens can receive information via AM radio even when phone lines, electricity, and cell phones are inoperable. In fact, during Hurricane Helene, local radio became a “lifeline for hard-hit North Carolina communities” after “communications across the region [were] severed.”²

AM radio stations are the backbone of our nation’s Emergency Alert System. Nearly 80 AM radio stations across the country are Primary Entry Points for emergency alerts distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Weather Service.³ Those stations, alone, cover approximately 90% of the US population and ensure that state and federal agencies can quickly, dependably, and economically distribute life-saving information across vast geographical areas.⁴

And AM radio is a vital source of free and readily accessible information for millions of Americans. According to the National Association of Broadcasters, about 47 million Americans listen to AM radio every week.⁵ AM radio provides free sports broadcasts, local news and weather reports, and important political commentary to large swaths of America. Rural America, too, greatly benefits from access to AM radio where broadband or cellular access is sparse or unreliable.⁶ That is particularly true for our farmers and ranchers who often rely on AM radio for important weather and crop updates, as well as entertainment in remote areas.

That is why we were concerned to hear reports of car manufacturers deciding to stop including AM radios in automobiles.⁷ As seven former leaders of the FEMA explained in a recent letter, removing AM radios from cars is a “grave threat to future local, state, and federal disaster response and relief efforts.”⁸

² <https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/30/media/hurricane-helene-local-radio-north-carolina/index.html>.

³ <https://www.nab.org/amtoolkit/amEas.asp>.

⁴ <https://www.nab.org/amtoolkit/amEas.asp>.

⁵ <https://radioink.com/2023/03/14/legeyt-47-million-people-listen-to-am-radio-every-week/>.

⁶ https://www.insideradio.com/free/farm-broadcasters-make-case-for-am-radio-as-a-rural-life-issue-in-washington/article_c738f5ce-eb10-11ed-b579-3b67ec10120a.html.

⁷ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bradadgate/2023/04/14/with-am-radio-no-longer-available-in-some-evs-carmakers-are-facing-a-backlash/?sh=598637d11a26>.

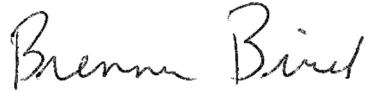
⁸ <https://www.foxbusiness.com/technology/electric-vehicles-need-am-radio-former-emergency-officials-argue>.

Considering the essential role AM radios play in the safety and well-being of Americans across the country, we urge you to prioritize the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act and to support the protection of this vital communications network.

Sincerely,



Ashley Moody
Florida Attorney General



Brenna Bird
Iowa Attorney General



Tim Griffin
Arkansas Attorney General



Todd Rokita
Indiana Attorney General



Liz Murrill
Louisiana Attorney General



Lynn Fitch
Mississippi Attorney General



Austin Knudsen
Montana Attorney General



Alan Wilson
South Carolina Attorney General



Marty Jackley
South Dakota Attorney General



Ken Paxton
Texas Attorney General



Sean Reyes
Utah Attorney General



Patrick Morrissey
West Virginia Attorney General