Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

Sebastian Mackensen President and Chief Executive Officer BMW of North America 300 Chestnut Ridge Road Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

Dear Mr. Mackensen,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather. In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.²

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), over 75 radio stations, most of which operate on the AM band and cover at least 90% of the U.S. population, are equipped with backup communications equipment and generators that allow them to continue broadcasting information to the public during and after an emergency. ³ Most importantly, AM radio is free to all Americans, not requiring a subscription or a broadband connection.

For rural Americans, the importance of having access to AM radio in their car or truck is particularly important. When Internet connectivity and cell phone service is limited or unavailable, these residents do not have as many options to access emergency information as those living in more densely populated areas. AM radio stations are often our constituents' "go to" source for information in times of crisis. We cannot deprive them of that free, life-saving resource.

Due to your announcement, we request that you answer the following questions, in writing, by May 26, 2023:

¹ Nielsen

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³ Ryan Felton, *Electric Vehicles Need AM Radio, Former Emergency Officials Argue*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Feb. 2023), available at https://www.wsj.com/articles/electric-vehicles-need-am-radio-former-emergency-officials-argue-9e69e297.

- 1. Please provide a list of all vehicle models from which your company has removed AM radio receivers and the rationale for removing them.
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- 3. Please provide a list of all vehicle models that will continue to have AM radio receivers.
- 4. Has your company evaluated whether current technology is available that is capable of addressing signal interference from electric vehicles (EVs) to the AM radio receivers?
 - a. If so, what technology can be used to address signal interference from EVs?
 - b. What is the estimated dollar amount per vehicle to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
 - c. What steps has your company taken to avoid removing AM radio receivers from EVs? If your company has taken no steps, please explain why.
- 5. Please provide the details and the value of all federal loan, grant, and tax incentives your company has received in the last 15 years.
 - a. Can these government subsidies offset the cost to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
- 6. Does your company plan to charge its customers for subscription-like access to free AM/FM radio in any vehicles?
- 7. Is this part of a broader effort by your company to have services in your vehicles dependent on a subscription, as has been highlighted in recent reports?⁴

We urge you to maintain AM radio receivers in all vehicles and prioritize consumers and public safety. We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta

Member of Congress

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Greg Pence

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James Comer Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

James D. Farley, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Ford Motor Company
One American Road
Dearborn, MI 48126

Dear Mr. Farley,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather. In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.²

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), over 75 radio stations, most of which operate on the AM band and cover at least 90% of the U.S. population, are equipped with backup communications equipment and generators that allow them to continue broadcasting information to the public during and after an emergency. Most importantly, AM radio is free to all Americans, not requiring a subscription or a broadband connection.

For rural Americans, the importance of having access to AM radio in their car or truck is particularly important. When Internet connectivity and cell phone service is limited or unavailable, these residents do not have as many options to access emergency information as those living in more densely populated areas. AM radio stations are often our constituents' "go to" source for information in times of crisis. We cannot deprive them of that free, life-saving resource.

Due to your announcement, we request that you answer the following questions, in writing, by May 26, 2023:

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- 1. Please provide a list of all vehicle models from which your company has removed AM radio receivers and the rationale for removing them.
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- 3. Please provide a list of all vehicle models that will continue to have AM radio receivers.
- 4. Has your company evaluated whether current technology is available that is capable of addressing signal interference from electric vehicles (EVs) to the AM radio receivers?
 - a. If so, what technology can be used to address signal interference from EVs?
 - b. What is the estimated dollar amount per vehicle to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
 - c. What steps has your company taken to avoid removing AM radio receivers from EVs? If your company has taken no steps, please explain why.
- 5. Please provide the details and the value of all federal loan, grant, and tax incentives your company has received in the last 15 years.
 - a. Can these government subsidies offset the cost to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
- 6. Does your company plan to charge its customers for subscription-like access to free AM/FM radio in any vehicles?
- 7. Is this part of a broader effort by your company to have services in your vehicles dependent on a subscription, as has been highlighted in recent reports?⁴

We urge you to maintain AM radio receivers in all vehicles and prioritize consumers and public safety. We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta

Member of Congress

Greg Pence

 $^{^4\} https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2022/11/10/how-the-subscription-business-model-could-change-the-automotive-industry/?sh=389c42e956ff$

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Gus M. Bilirakis Member of Congress

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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter Member of Congress

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Tony Cárdenas

Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

Mary Barra Chair and Chief Executive Officer General Motors 300 Renaissance Center Detroit, MI 48265

Dear Mrs. Barra,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather. In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.²

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- 7. Is this part of a broader effort by your company to have services in your vehicles dependent on a subscription, as has been highlighted in recent reports?4

We urge you to maintain AM radio receivers in all vehicles and prioritize consumers and public safety. We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta

Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

Tom Donnelly President and Chief Executive Officer Mazda North American Operations PO Box 19734 Irvine, CA 92623

Dear Mr. Donnelly,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather. In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.²

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Marie Gluesenkamp Perez Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Eric Burlison Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach Member of Congress Andy Barr

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Michael M. June

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Tony Cárdenas Member of Congress John R. Moolenaar Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Eric Sorensen Member of Congress

James Comer Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

Dimitris Psillakis Chief Executive Officer Mercedes-Benz USA 1 Mercedes-Benz Drive Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Dear Mr. Psillakis,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather. In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.²

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), over 75 radio stations, most of which operate on the AM band and cover at least 90% of the U.S. population, are equipped with backup communications equipment and generators that allow them to continue broadcasting information to the public during and after an emergency. ³ Most importantly, AM radio is free to all Americans, not requiring a subscription or a broadband connection.

For rural Americans, the importance of having access to AM radio in their car or truck is particularly important. When Internet connectivity and cell phone service is limited or unavailable, these residents do not have as many options to access emergency information as those living in more densely populated areas. AM radio stations are often our constituents' "go to" source for information in times of crisis. We cannot deprive them of that free, life-saving resource.

Due to your announcement, we request that you answer the following questions, in writing, by May 26, 2023:

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- 1. Please provide a list of all vehicle models from which your company has removed AM radio receivers and the rationale for removing them.
- 2. Please provide a list of all vehicle models from which your company is planning to remove AM radio receivers. In each case, please specify the model year in which AM radio receivers will be removed and the rationale for removing them.
- 3. Please provide a list of all vehicle models that will continue to have AM radio receivers.
- 4. Has your company evaluated whether current technology is available that is capable of addressing signal interference from electric vehicles (EVs) to the AM radio receivers?
 - a. If so, what technology can be used to address signal interference from EVs?
 - b. What is the estimated dollar amount per vehicle to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
 - c. What steps has your company taken to avoid removing AM radio receivers from EVs? If your company has taken no steps, please explain why.
- 5. Please provide the details and the value of all federal loan, grant, and tax incentives your company has received in the last 15 years.
 - a. Can these government subsidies offset the cost to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
- 6. Does your company plan to charge its customers for subscription-like access to free AM/FM radio in any vehicles?
- 7. Is this part of a broader effort by your company to have services in your vehicles dependent on a subscription, as has been highlighted in recent reports?⁴

We urge you to maintain AM radio receivers in all vehicles and prioritize consumers and public safety. We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta

Member of Congress

Greg Pence

 $^{^4\} https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2022/11/10/how-the-subscription-business-model-could-change-the-automotive-industry/?sh=389c42e956ff$

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H. Morgan Griffith Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

Gregor Hembrough Head of Polestar USA Polestar USA 777 MacArthur Boulevard Mahwah, NJ 07439

Dear Mr. Hembrough,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather. In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.²

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For rural Americans, the importance of having access to AM radio in their car or truck is particularly important. When Internet connectivity and cell phone service is limited or unavailable, these residents do not have as many options to access emergency information as those living in more densely populated areas. AM radio stations are often our constituents' "go to" source for information in times of crisis. We cannot deprive them of that free, life-saving resource.

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- 7. Is this part of a broader effort by your company to have services in your vehicles dependent on a subscription, as has been highlighted in recent reports?⁴

We urge you to maintain AM radio receivers in all vehicles and prioritize consumers and public safety. We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta

Member of Congress

Greg Pence

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H. Morgan Griffith Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

RJ Scaringe Founder and Chief Executive Officer Rivian Automotive, Inc. 15770 Languna Canyon Road, Suite 100 Irvine, CA 92618

Dear Mr. Scaringe,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather. In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.²

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), over 75 radio stations, most of which operate on the AM band and cover at least 90% of the U.S. population, are equipped with backup communications equipment and generators that allow them to continue broadcasting information to the public during and after an emergency. ³ Most importantly, AM radio is free to all Americans, not requiring a subscription or a broadband connection.

For rural Americans, the importance of having access to AM radio in their car or truck is particularly important. When Internet connectivity and cell phone service is limited or unavailable, these residents do not have as many options to access emergency information as those living in more densely populated areas. AM radio stations are often our constituents' "go to" source for information in times of crisis. We cannot deprive them of that free, life-saving resource.

Due to your announcement, we request that you answer the following questions, in writing, by May 26, 2023:

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- 1. Please provide a list of all vehicle models from which your company has removed AM radio receivers and the rationale for removing them.
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 - a. Can these government subsidies offset the cost to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
- 6. Does your company plan to charge its customers for subscription-like access to free AM/FM radio in any vehicles?
- 7. Is this part of a broader effort by your company to have services in your vehicles dependent on a subscription, as has been highlighted in recent reports?⁴

We urge you to maintain AM radio receivers in all vehicles and prioritize consumers and public safety. We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta

Member of Congress

Greg Pence

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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

Elon Musk Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer Tesla 1 Tesla Road Austin, TX 78725

Dear Mr. Musk,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

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Robert E. Latta

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Harriet M. Hageman

Member of Congress

Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M. Member of Congress

Troy E. Nehls

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Chellie Pingree

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Mike Bost

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Tony Cárdenas

Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

Pablo Di Si President and Chief Executive Officer Volkswagen Group of America 2200 Woodland Pointe Avenue Herndon, VA 20171

Dear Mr. Di Si,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather. In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.²

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), over 75 radio stations, most of which operate on the AM band and cover at least 90% of the U.S. population, are equipped with backup communications equipment and generators that allow them to continue broadcasting information to the public during and after an emergency. Most importantly, AM radio is free to all Americans, not requiring a subscription or a broadband connection.

For rural Americans, the importance of having access to AM radio in their car or truck is particularly important. When Internet connectivity and cell phone service is limited or unavailable, these residents do not have as many options to access emergency information as those living in more densely populated areas. AM radio stations are often our constituents' "go to" source for information in times of crisis. We cannot deprive them of that free, life-saving resource.

Due to your announcement, we request that you answer the following questions, in writing, by May 26, 2023:

¹ Nielsen

² Integrated Public Alert & Warning System, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, available at https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/integrated-public-alert-warning-system.

³ Ryan Felton, *Electric Vehicles Need AM Radio, Former Emergency Officials Argue*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Feb. 2023), available at https://www.wsj.com/articles/electric-vehicles-need-am-radio-former-emergency-officials-argue-9e69e297.

- 1. Please provide a list of all vehicle models from which your company has removed AM radio receivers and the rationale for removing them.
- 2. Please provide a list of all vehicle models from which your company is planning to remove AM radio receivers. In each case, please specify the model year in which AM radio receivers will be removed and the rationale for removing them.
- 3. Please provide a list of all vehicle models that will continue to have AM radio receivers.
- 4. Has your company evaluated whether current technology is available that is capable of addressing signal interference from electric vehicles (EVs) to the AM radio receivers?
 - a. If so, what technology can be used to address signal interference from EVs?
 - b. What is the estimated dollar amount per vehicle to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
 - c. What steps has your company taken to avoid removing AM radio receivers from EVs? If your company has taken no steps, please explain why.
- 5. Please provide the details and the value of all federal loan, grant, and tax incentives your company has received in the last 15 years.
 - a. Can these government subsidies offset the cost to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
- 6. Does your company plan to charge its customers for subscription-like access to free AM/FM radio in any vehicles?
- 7. Is this part of a broader effort by your company to have services in your vehicles dependent on a subscription, as has been highlighted in recent reports?⁴

We urge you to maintain AM radio receivers in all vehicles and prioritize consumers and public safety. We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta

Member of Congress

Greg Pence

https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2022/11/10/how-the-subscription-business-model-could-change-the-automotive-industry/?sh=389c42e956ff

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Earl I Bully Carte

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Richard Hudson

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Neal P. Dunn, M.D. Member of Congress

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Don Bacon

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Garret Graves

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Kat Cammack Member of Congress

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Tim Burchett Member of Congress Bill Johnson

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Glenn Grothman Member of Congress

Abigail Davis Spanberger Member of Congress

Warren Davidson Member of Congress

Andy Biggs Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson Member of Congress

Daniel Webster Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith Member of Congress

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Elise M. Stefanik Member of Congress

Antifony D'Esposito Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Bryan Steil Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell

Thomas H. Kean, Jr.

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Brad Finstad Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress

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Ben Cline Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher Member of Congress Sharice L. Davids Member of Congress

Wesley Hunt Member of Congress

Carlos A. Gimenez

Member of Congress

Randy Feenstra
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Rick W. Allen Member of Congress David G. Valadao Member of Congress Member of Congress

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James Comer

Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

Mike Cottone President, USA & Canada Volvo Car USA 1800 Volvo Place Mahwah, NJ 07430

Dear Mr. Cottone,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather. In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.²

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Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta

Member of Congress

Greg Pence

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