



June 5, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone:

I'm writing on behalf of the Hispanic Leadership Fund (HLF), a non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening working families by advancing common-sense public policy solutions that foster liberty, opportunity, and prosperity. I write to you regarding the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act (H.R. 3413).

HLF believes that there would several harmful effects that would result from severely limiting Americans' access to AM Radio. Foremost among our concerns is protecting the effectiveness of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Alert System (EAS). In addition to impacting the ability of the President to reach the American people in the event of a national emergency, the EAS also provides a mechanism for state and local authorities to deliver information about extreme weather and natural disasters, AMBER alerts, and similar events.

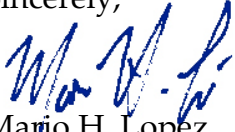
Importantly, even without activation of the EAS, the AM band provides a critical avenue for communication in times when power is out, cellular networks and/or internet access is limited or cut-off.

In addition, any restriction to access of AM radio would detrimentally impact many key economic industries and underserved communities across the country. Rural, agricultural, news journalism, and small businesses are among the sectors that would be directly affected.

For example, among the 4,500 AM radio stations across the U.S. whose signals reach over 80 million Americans a month, there are over 13 million American Latinos aged 12 years and up. Also, of the 1,500 minority-owned stations are about 600 stations that broadcast at least in part in a language other than English—including nearly 440 stations that have Spanish language or Latino/regional formats.

For these important public safety and economic reasons we urge support of the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mario H. Lopez".

Mario H. Lopez

President

Hispanic Leadership Fund

CC: Members of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce