

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid,



We urge you to **pass the Performance Rights Act** (H.R. 848, S. 379), bipartisan legislation often known as the **Civil Rights for Musicians Act**, which would ensure that artists are paid fairly when their music is played on the air.

Every country except the U.S., China, Iran and North Korea requires radio stations to compensate musicians, and copyright law requires that artists be compensated in every other circumstance — when their music is played on satellite radio or downloaded from iTunes. Countless musicians and older performers, the men and women who brought many of our favorite songs to life, are living in squalor because even though they have shared their talents with us, they are not being fairly compensated. Without these performers, the songs would be nothing but words on a page. And for many of them, radio performances would be their only source of income.

The Performance Rights Act would end this injustice while protecting small, community-based, public, educational and minority radio stations from royalty fees that would result in a financial hardship.

We urge you to support this important workers' rights and civil rights legislation.

***It is long past time to ensure that our hard working performers get paid fairly for their honest work.
We urge you to support this important workers' rights and civil rights legislation.***

*A. Philip Randolph Institute
American Federation of
Labor-Congress of
Industrial Organizations
American Federation of Musicians
American Federation of
Television and Radio Artists*

*Asian Pacific American Labor
Alliance, AFL-CIO
Black Leadership Forum
Coalition of Black
Trade Unionists
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Labor Council for Latin
American Advancement*

*League of Rural Voters
League of United
Latin American Citizens
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
National Coalition of Latino
Clergy and Christian Leaders*

*National Congress of
Black Women
National Council of Women's
Organizations
National Gay and Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce
National Hispanic
Media Coalition*