



February 18, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Dirksen Senate Office Building,  
100 Constitution Avenue, NE,  
Room 511,  
Washington, DC 20510-4105

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Hart Senate Office Building,  
120 Constitution Avenue, NE,  
Room 322,  
Washington, DC 20510-3203

The Honorary Mike Johnson  
Cannon House Office Building,  
25 Independence Avenue, SE,  
Room 568,  
Washington, DC 20515-1804

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Rayburn House Office Building,  
50 Independence Avenue, SW,  
Room 2267,  
Washington, DC 20515-3208

Dear Senate Majority Leader Thune, Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the undersigned associations, we write to express our support for the *AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act* (S. 315 / H.R. 979).

As emergency managers responsible for protecting lives and ensuring national security, we rely on AM radio as an essential tool to deliver timely, local, and life-saving information. When disasters strike and broadband, electric power, and cell service fail, AM radio remains a trusted and resilient source of emergency updates. Unlike other communication methods, AM radio's unmatched reach ensures no community is left without critical information—especially in rural and underserved areas.

Of particular concern is that removing free, over-the-air AM radio from vehicles would directly undermine the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) emergency alert system, which ensures the President can reach all Americans in a public safety or national security emergency.

Recent disasters—including the catastrophic wildfires in California, Hurricanes Helene and Milton sweeping across the Southeast, and the treacherous ice and snowstorms that have caused deadly accidents nationwide—underscore AM radio's vital role in public safety. When other forms of communication have failed, AM radio has kept first responders and the public connected with real-time, life-saving updates on evacuations, road closures, and emergency conditions. Beyond providing critical alerts to the public, AM radio also enables emergency personnel to communicate with each other in real

time as we coordinate disaster response. Removing AM radio from vehicles threatens this vital link between first responders and the communities we serve.

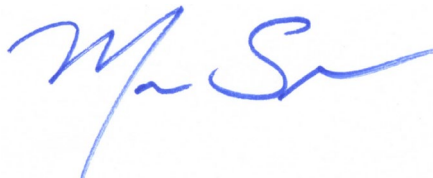
Public safety cannot be compromised. We urge you to support this legislation and bring it up for a vote to ensure AM radio remains a standard free safety feature in all vehicles—a simple yet essential step in safeguarding lives.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Lynn Budd  
NEMA President



Mark Sloan  
BCEM Chairman



Carrie Speranza  
IAEM-USA President