



March 14, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair, House Energy & Commerce
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone,

I write to you on behalf of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) association—a non-profit, membership association headquartered in Washington, D.C., that represents the interests of Christian broadcasters throughout the nation. Since 1944, the mission of NRB has been to help protect and defend the rights of Christian media and to keep channels of mass communication open for Christian communicators to speak freely.

Our membership includes 123 AM radio stations, and our member companies have hundreds of AM radio affiliates among the 4,484 AM radio stations operating in the United States today. These stations are licensed to serve their local communities with news, traffic and weather reports, sports play-by-play, talk programs, and in the case of our membership, faith-driven programming and Bible teaching. Radio stations also play a crucial public service function in times of emergency: When power goes out and phones cannot be charged, radio is a lifeline.

As in previous years, there are proposals currently before both the House (H.R.1279) and the Senate (S.582) that would make Daylight Saving Time the new, permanent standard time. When your committee takes H.R.1279 under consideration, we urge you to investigate the potentially devastating impact of this proposal on AM radio stations.

The AM audio format presents certain limitations due to the way radio waves travel differently during the day and night. Most AM stations are required by the FCC to reduce power or power down completely at night to avoid interference with other stations. The radio broadcasting day kicks off with one of the most impactful dayparts from both a programming and revenue standpoint: the popular and familiar “morning drive,” which lasts from approximately 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. If Daylight Saving Time were made permanent, many AM stations would not be at full power or signal until at least 8:00 a.m. during the darkest days of the year from November to February, missing out on crucial morning drive listenership and advertising revenue.

This would constitute a serious disruption for AM broadcasters, who already face considerable challenges in today’s media environment. We are confident this is not your intent, and we respectfully urge you to vote against H.R.1279 as written when your committee decides to review it.

Thank you for considering the concerns of America’s broadcasters, and for your service to our nation on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Sincerely,

Troy A. Miller
President & CEO