



**WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**  
1156 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NW SUITE 915 · WASHINGTON, DC 20005 · P (202) 463-2940 · F (202) 463-2953  
E-MAIL: WASHINGTONBUREAU@NAACPNET.ORG · WEB ADDRESS WWW.NAACP.ORG

March 2, 2010

The Honorable John Conyers  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

*via fax*

**RE: NAACP SUPPORT FOR MANAGER'S AMENDMENT TO H.R. 848, THE "PERFORMANCE RIGHTS ACT OF 2009"**

Dear Chairman Conyers;

On behalf of the NAACP, our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, I am writing in support of the Chairman's Mark of H.R. 848, the "Performance Rights Act of 2009." This amendment, requesting a study from the Government Accountability Office on the impact of the bill on media diversity and minority, women-owned, and small broadcasters as well as the provision that the results of the study will be considered before fees are imposed on those broadcasters are important provisions which go a long way toward addressing the concerns of the NAACP and our constituents.

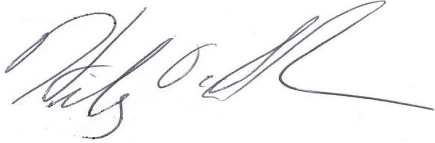
While the NAACP believes strongly that artists must be fairly compensated for their work, we are also very sensitive to the questions that have been raised as to the impact this legislation would have on racial and ethnic minority broadcasters. Given the importance these outlets have to our communities, it is clearly imperative that we fully understand the ramifications of all legislative initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, as a life-long champion of racial and ethnic minorities you undoubtedly appreciate the importance of radio stations owned and operated by African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities to the survival of our culture and to the promotion of independent thinking. The balance between the survival of these media outlets and the needs of performers, most of whom struggle to make ends meet and who depend on many different income streams in order to patch together a middle class life, is not an easy one. The Chairman's Mark of H.R. 848, however, does a good job of recognizing that in order to help performers, we must not harm minority and women-owned broadcasters who are trying to stay afloat.

The NAACP appreciates your efforts on this difficult situation and looks forward to working with you to ensure the survival not only performers but also of minority-owned radio stations.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the NAACP position. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at (202) 463-2940. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and many other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary O. Shelton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hilary O. Shelton  
Vice President of Advocacy /  
Director, NAACP Washington Bureau