

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2023

Sebastian Mackensen  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
BMW of North America  
300 Chestnut Ridge Road  
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

Dear Mr. Mackensen,

We write to you to express our concern about reports that your company removed, or plans to remove, broadcast AM radio receivers from current and future vehicles. As the backbone of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), AM radio serves a vital role in our nation's emergency communications infrastructure.

AM radio has more than 45 million listeners each month, and our constituents rely heavily on it for emergency alerts and local news, information, and weather.<sup>1</sup> In the case of natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, wildfires, and other local emergencies – AM radio is a lifeline. It provides early warning, up-to-the minute local information needed to survive when these disasters strike, and ongoing, life-saving information in their aftermath when the danger is often the greatest.<sup>2</sup>

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), over 75 radio stations, most of which operate on the AM band and cover at least 90% of the U.S. population, are equipped with backup communications equipment and generators that allow them to continue broadcasting information to the public during and after an emergency.<sup>3</sup> Most importantly, AM radio is free to all Americans, not requiring a subscription or a broadband connection.

For rural Americans, the importance of having access to AM radio in their car or truck is particularly important. When Internet connectivity and cell phone service is limited or unavailable, these residents do not have as many options to access emergency information as those living in more densely populated areas. AM radio stations are often our constituents' "go to" source for information in times of crisis. We cannot deprive them of that free, life-saving resource.

Due to your announcement, we request that you answer the following questions, in writing, by May 26, 2023:

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<sup>1</sup> Nielsen

<sup>2</sup> Integrated Public Alert & Warning System, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, available at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>.

<sup>3</sup> Ryan Felton, *Electric Vehicles Need AM Radio, Former Emergency Officials Argue*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Feb. 2023), available at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/electric-vehicles-need-am-radio-former-emergency-officials-argue-9e69e297>.

1. Please provide a list of all vehicle models from which your company has removed AM radio receivers and the rationale for removing them.
2. Please provide a list of all vehicle models from which your company is planning to remove AM radio receivers. In each case, please specify the model year in which AM radio receivers will be removed and the rationale for removing them.
3. Please provide a list of all vehicle models that will continue to have AM radio receivers.
4. Has your company evaluated whether current technology is available that is capable of addressing signal interference from electric vehicles (EVs) to the AM radio receivers?
  - a. If so, what technology can be used to address signal interference from EVs?
  - b. What is the estimated dollar amount per vehicle to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
  - c. What steps has your company taken to avoid removing AM radio receivers from EVs? If your company has taken no steps, please explain why.
5. Please provide the details and the value of all federal loan, grant, and tax incentives your company has received in the last 15 years.
  - a. Can these government subsidies offset the cost to mitigate interference to AM radio receivers?
6. Does your company plan to charge its customers for subscription-like access to free AM/FM radio in any vehicles?
7. Is this part of a broader effort by your company to have services in your vehicles dependent on a subscription, as has been highlighted in recent reports?<sup>4</sup>

We urge you to maintain AM radio receivers in all vehicles and prioritize consumers and public safety. We appreciate your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



Greg Pence  
Member of Congress

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2022/11/10/how-the-subscription-business-model-could-change-the-automotive-industry/?sh=389c42e956ff>



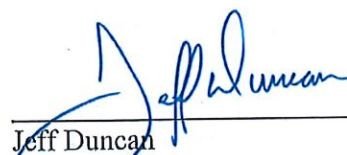
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



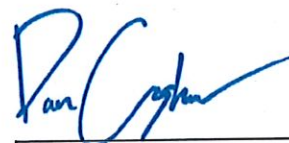
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



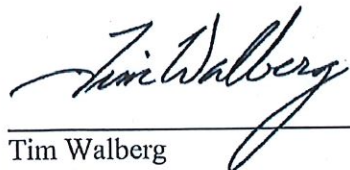
Dan Crenshaw  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



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Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



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Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



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Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



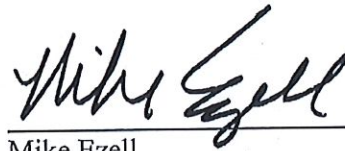
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Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



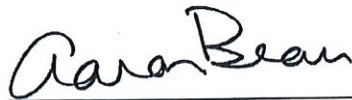
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Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress



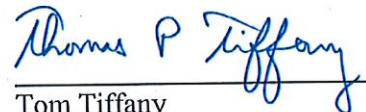
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Mike Ezell  
Member of Congress



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Aaron Bean  
Member of Congress



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Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress




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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress





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Tom Cole  
Member of Congress


  
Mariannette Miller-Meeks,  
M.D.  
Member of Congress


  
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

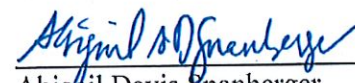
  
Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress


  
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress


  
Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

  
Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress

  
Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress

  
Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



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Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



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Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Anthony D'Esposito  
Member of Congress



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Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



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Rudy Yakym III  
Member of Congress



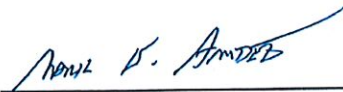
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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



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Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress



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Mark E. Amodei  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad  
Member of Congress



Wesley Hunt  
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez  
Member of Congress



Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



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David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress




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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



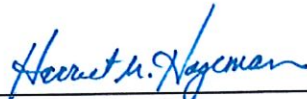
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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Laurel M. Lee  
Member of Congress



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Harriet M. Hageman  
Member of Congress



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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



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Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress





Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Max L. Miller  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress




Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress




C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



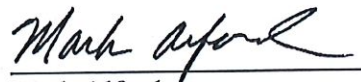
Harold Rogers  
Member of Congress

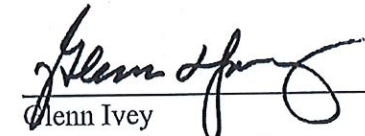
  
Mike Flood  
Member of Congress


  
Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress

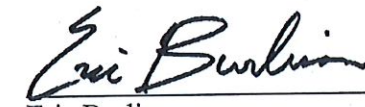
  
Bruce Westerman  
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Marie Gluesenkamp Perez  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Alford  
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Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress

  
Stephanie Bice  
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Eric Burlison  
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Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
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Michelle Fischbach  
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Andy Barr  
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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



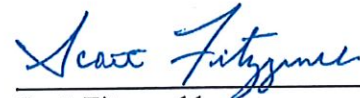
Bob Good  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Mike Carey  
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald  
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Susie Lee  
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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



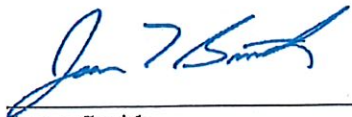
Frank D. Lucas  
Member of Congress



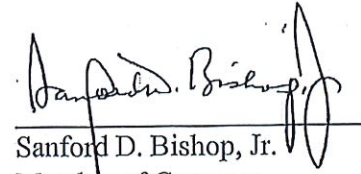
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar  
Member of Congress



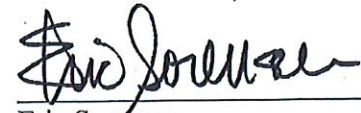
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Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
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Derrick Van Orden  
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Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



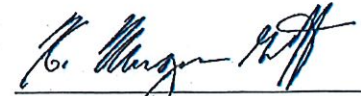
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