



For Immediate Release  
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## **House Small Business Committee to Examine Future of Net Radio Hearing Scheduled for Internet Radio Equality Act**

WASHINGTON D.C. – Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) and Ranking Member Steve Chabot (R-OH) will hold a full committee hearing Thursday in the House Small Business Committee to weigh the impact of the recent Copyright Royalty Board decision to raise royalty rates for webcasters. The hearing, “Assessing the Impact of the Copyright Royalty Board Decision to Increase Royalty Rates on Recording Artists and Webcasters,” has been scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

The Internet Radio Equality Act (H.R. 2060) was introduced by Reps. Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Don Manzullo (R-IL). It would set aside the CRB’s decision, set a fair royalty rate and establish a reasonable process for rate setting in the future.

“The Internet Radio Equality Act would save the more than 30,000 webcasters in the United States from almost certain bankruptcy and help maintain the viability of thousands of artists who depend on Internet radio for airplay and royalty payments,” said Jake Ward, a spokesperson for the SaveNetRadio coalition. “More than 120 members of the House of already cosponsored this legislation, and today’s hearing will give many others a better understanding of not only the importance of the issue, but the urgency with which it needs to be addressed.”

The rate hike, set to take effect July 15, will have disastrous impacts on the Internet radio industry. Rate increases range from 300% to 1200% and are retroactive to January 2006. Without congressional intervention, many webcasters are likely to go bankrupt.

Testifying on behalf of Internet radio will be:

**Joey Allcorn**, independent musician, Joey Allcorn and the Hillbilly Band;  
**Kieran Kelly**, co-owner of Stunning Models on Display Records;  
**Bryan Miller**, general manager of WOXY.com, LaLa Media, Inc.; and  
**Richard N. Eiswerth**, President, General Manager & CEO of Cincinnati Public Radio, on behalf of National Public Radio.

For more information on the SaveNetRadio coalition, visit [www.SaveNetRadio.org](http://www.SaveNetRadio.org).

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