

Resolution for Urgent Action to Save Internet Radio

WHEREAS, unlike internet radio, traditional radio does NOT pay royalties to record labels or artists for songs performed over the air;

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2007, after intense lobbying by the RIAA (the record industry), the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB) issued a ruling that imposes bizarre and unsustainable royalties and huge fees on internet transmission of audio. It will end the industry;

WHEREAS, on April 16th, 2007, the CRB declined a unified industry request to hear any additional testimony;

WHEREAS, the CRB ruling imposes a per channel fee of \$500 and huge increases in royalties that are retroactive to Jan 1, 2006 and go into effect on May 15, 2007;

WHEREAS, the CRB declared that the 2002 Small Webcaster Settlement Act (SWSA) would not be extended despite the arrangements with BMI, ASCAP, and Small Webcaster contracts SoundExchange offered on the SoundExchange website and signed with Small Webcasters for 2006 and 2007;

WHEREAS, without Congressional action the majority of webcasters will go bankrupt and silent on May 15, 2007;

WHEREAS, this is a matter of free speech and urgent immediate action is required;

THREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the WSDCC respectfully requests that our US Senators and Congressional Representatives address this issue by working to get Congress to:

1. Reinstate the Small Webcaster Settlement Act.
2. Stop the retroactive, ex post facto royalty payments for 2006 mandated by the CRB, until all appeals have been heard.
3. Create a level playing field by bringing the Internet radio per performance rates into parity with traditional and satellite radio.

Submitted by the Spokane County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham. (Date Submitted 4/21/2007)

44 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
45 its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.

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47 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.