



STATE OF FLORIDA

**ASHLEY MOODY
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

June 28, 2023

Electric Drive Transportation Association
1250 I Street Northwest, Unit 902
Washington, DC 20005

Zero Emission Transportation Association
659 C Street Southeast
Washington, DC 20003

Re: *The Importance of AM Radios in All Personal Vehicles.*

Dear All:

We, Attorneys General of sixteen States, write with great concern regarding the decision of many of your members to eliminate AM radios in electric cars.

According to recent reports, many of your members have decided to stop including AM radios in their automobiles.¹ These manufacturers apparently blame signal interference caused by electric car equipment.² Notably, however, multiple electric car manufacturers have decided not to phase out AM radio.³ These decisions suggest that the real problem is not signal interference but a failure of certain automobile manufacturers to appreciate the importance of AM radio.

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bradadgate/2023/04/14/with-am-radio-no-longer-available-in-some-evs-carmakers-are-facing-a-backlash/?sh=598637d11a26>.

² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bradadgate/2023/04/14/with-am-radio-no-longer-available-in-some-evs-carmakers-are-facing-a-backlash/?sh=598637d11a26>.

³ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bradadgate/2023/04/14/with-am-radio-no-longer-available-in-some-evs-carmakers-arc-facing-a-backlash/?sh=598637d11a26>.

Each of our States experience natural disasters and other public safety emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, earthquakes, and many others. During those emergencies, it is vitally important that federal, state, and local officials be able to deliver emergency warnings and other information to their citizens. AM radio signals travel greater distances as compared to FM, and citizens can receive information via AM radio even when phone lines, electricity, and cell phones are inoperable. As seven former leaders of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) explained in a recent letter, removing AM radios from electric cars is a “grave threat to future local, state, and federal disaster response and relief efforts.”⁴ This is because AM radio stations are the backbone of our nation’s Emergency Alert System (EAS). Nearly 80 AM radio stations across the country are Primary Entry Points for emergency alerts distributed by FEMA and the National Weather Service.⁵ These stations, alone, cover approximately 90% of the US population and ensure that state and federal agencies can quickly, dependably, and cheaply distribute life-saving information across vast geographical areas.⁶

The decision to eliminate AM radios is even more problematic in light of the Biden Administration’s goal of “having 50 percent of all new vehicle sales be electric by 2030.”⁷ While we oppose the Biden Administration’s efforts, they underscore that removing AM radios from electric cars threatens the entire AM radio industry. Without access to their main consumers—automobile owners—AM stations, and the lifesaving signals they provide, might cease to exist.

AM radio, moreover, is a vital source of free and readily accessible information for millions of Americans. According to the National Association of Broadcasters, approximately 47 million Americans listen to AM radio every week.⁸ AM radio provides free sports broadcasts, local news and weather reports, as well as important political commentary to large swaths of America. Rural America, in particular, greatly benefits from access to AM radio where broadband or cellular access is sparse or unreliable.⁹ Eliminating AM radio from vehicles ignores the vital role AM radio plays in the lives of millions of Americans.

⁴ <https://www.foxbusiness.com/technology/electric-vehicles-need-am-radio-former-emergency-officials-argue>.

⁵ <https://www.nab.org/amtoolkit/amEas.asp>.

⁶ <https://www.nab.org/amtoolkit/amEas.asp>.

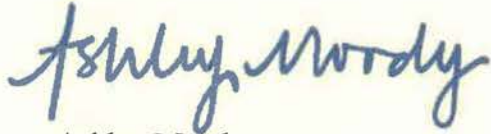
⁷ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/04/17/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-private-and-public-sector-investments-for-affordable-electric-vehicles/#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20President%20Biden's,under%20the%20EV%20Acceleration%20C%20challenge>.

⁸ <https://radioink.com/2023/03/14/legcyt-47-million-people-listen-to-am-radio-every-week/>.

⁹ https://www.insideradio.com/free/farm-broadcasters-make-case-for-am-radio-as-a-rural-life-issue-in-washington/article_c738f5ce-cb10-11ed-b579-3b67ec10120a.html.

In light of the essential role AM radios play in the safety and well-being of Americans across the country, we urge your members to reconsider the decisions to eliminate AM radios in electric cars.

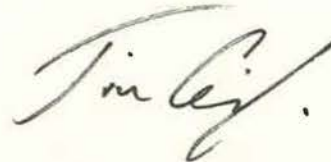
Sincerely,



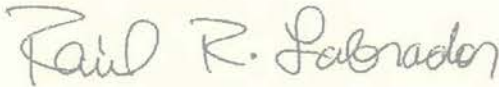
Ashley Moody
Florida Attorney General



Treg Taylor
Alaska Attorney General



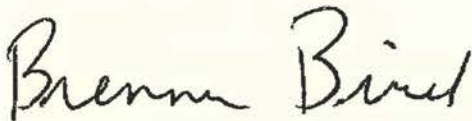
Tim Griffin
Arkansas Attorney General



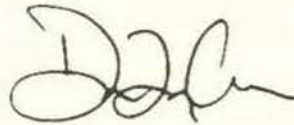
Raúl Labrador
Idaho Attorney General



Todd Rokita
Indiana Attorney General



Brenna Bird
Iowa Attorney General



Daniel Cameron
Kentucky Attorney General



Jeff Landry
Louisiana Attorney General



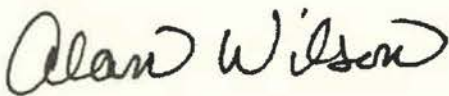
Lynn Fitch
Mississippi Attorney General



Austin Knudsen
Montana Attorney General



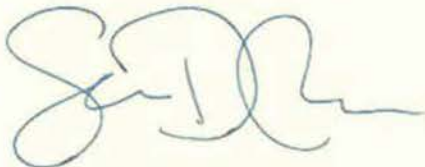
Dave Yost
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Patrick Morrissey
West Virginia Attorney General