



July 21, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Senate Majority Leader
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7020

Dear Majority Leader Frist and Minority Leader Reid:

On behalf of the 66 members of the Grand Ole Opry, comprised of country music's finest and most acclaimed performers, I am writing you to express our serious concerns with the "Wireless Innovation Networks" title (Title VI) of the pending Senate telecommunications legislation (H.R. 5252) as reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

For 80 years, the Grand Ole Opry has been heralded as the home of country music, utilizing state-of-the-art technology to bring "America's Music" to the world. From its humble beginnings on WSM-AM radio in 1925, today's Opry can also be enjoyed on Sirius satellite radio, the Great American Country (GAC) television network, on 200-plus syndicated radio stations and worldwide over the internet on www.opry.com.

The success and longevity of the Grand Ole Opry can be attributed to a variety of factors. However, our commitment to the utilization of the latest technology has been the principle factor in our staying power. We present nearly 200 performances each and every year. Each performance may feature up to 20 respected country music performers, from new stars to Hall of Fame legends. These artists expect (and deserve) a premiere audio experience as part of the overall concert production. Wireless microphones, wireless ear monitors and wireless instruments are a key element to presenting a program which exceeds the artists', musicians' and consumers' expectations. For an artist, being wireless is no longer an option, it is mandatory for "connecting" with their audience. In addition, as you know, we were honored to host President George W. Bush the day following this year's State of the Union address. Numerous wireless microphones were used to successfully present this event.

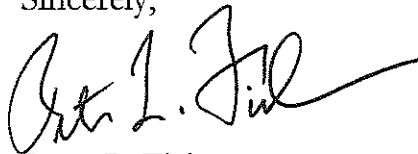
For tickets and information, call (615) 871-OPRY or log on to www.opry.com

Our reliance on this technology is a major reason why we are so concerned about Title VI in H.R. 5252. As currently drafted, the proposed legislation would allow millions of new and potentially interfering devices to operate in the TV spectrum band (where wireless microphones currently operate) in a mere 9 months from the date of enactment – despite the complete lack of any field tests to demonstrate that such devices will not interfere with wireless microphones, or even over-the-air television broadcasts. As Illinois Senator Richard J. Durbin said recently “the FCC and other technical experts ... [must be] allowed sufficient time to thoroughly study and resolve serious interference issues before new services are allowed to be turned on.”

Moreover, the Senate language provides only the thinnest of interference protections for incumbent services like wireless microphones. An “after-the-fact” FCC complaint process is, at best, unworkable and would expose our industry to significant new risks of low-or-no quality audio due to new “wireless audio congestion.” The millions of U.S. fans of country music artists deserve better.

The Grand Ole Opry urges the Senate to strike Title VI from H.R. 5252 and revisit the issue in a later Congress when the engineering experts have had sufficient opportunity to iron out all of the potential interference-related issues.

Sincerely,



Peter L. Fisher

Vice President, General Manager

Grand Ole Opry

A Division of Gaylord Entertainment Co.

cc: The Honorable Ted Stevens
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Joe Barton
The Honorable John D. Dingell
The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Edward J. Markey
The Honorable Marsha W. Blackburn
The Honorable Bart Gordon