



**North American
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For Immediate Release

NABA Initiative to Enable FM Radio in Smartphones Approved by ITU

Toronto, ON, Canada – May 24, 2017 - The North American Broadcasters Association (NABA) led a successful effort to gain international support for the activation of FM radio receivers in smartphones. NABA submitted an “Opinion” on activating radio receivers in smartphones that was adopted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in March of 2017. Enabling the FM chip present in most smartphones would allow users convenient access to FM radio in times of emergency and natural disasters. For more information, visit http://www.nabanet.com/nabaweb/itu/itu_submissions.asp.

“ITU’s support is a result of focused, coordinated and steadfast effort by NABA’s Radio Committee and the FM Chip Working Group comprised of members across Canada, Mexico and the United States,” says Michael McEwen, Director-General, NABA. “As broadcast industry leaders, we thank the ITU for the global support of FM enabled smartphones.”

The Official [Opinion](#) from the ITU states “that Report [ITU-R BT.2299](#) provides a compilation of supporting evidence that terrestrial broadcasting plays a critically important role in disseminating information to the public in times of emergencies.” In addition, “...citizens of the world would benefit if manufacturers of mobile telephones, tablets, and similar devices as well as associated service providers would include and activate a broadcast radio tuner functionality in their products along with the appropriate applications to facilitate radio broadcasting reception.”

The opinion was initially submitted to the Radiocommunication sector of the ITU in Geneva in October of 2016, and was discussed, edited, and approved at the March 2017 meetings of the ITU’s Study Group 6 (specializing in Broadcasting Service). NABA’s submission was supported by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), International Association of Broadcasting (IAB), the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), and the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU), as well as a number of administrations.

About NABA:

NABA is a non-profit association of the most influential broadcasting organizations throughout North America committed to advancing the interests of broadcasters at home and internationally. Network broadcasters, both public and private, in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, work together to provide a common voice for the North American broadcast community. For further information about NABA, please visit www.nabanet.com.

For more information, please contact:

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