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Outraged fans throughout the United States have started a grassroots campaign to keep their favorite radio DJ, "County" Dan Dixon, on the air after the newly formed Sirius XM Radio decided to cut his radio show. More than 1,000 outraged fans have signed a petition and more signatures are pouring in daily.

It started with Wilma Shannon of Muncie, Ind. A cookbook author and a member of a gospel group, Shannon is a long-time listener of Dixon and enjoys his nightly program on America XM 10 from 8 p.m. to midnight as well as his "Stained Glass" country gospel music program. When she got the news that Dixon's show was being cut, she immediately began e-mailing everyone she could think of.

As a result, many country music and gospel music artists are now uniting with her to support Dixon. Dixon's show is popular with truck drivers as well, and many of them are showing their support. In fact, Shannon connected with Laurie Dressler in Potosi, Wis. Dressler, who runs a trucking company, has been posting the petitions at truck stops to help Shannon collect names – all of which are being sent to the president of Sirius XM Radio, Mel Karmazin.

Shannon, Dressler and many others are frustrated that their favorite DJ will last be heard on XM on Nov. 14. They've sent numerous e-mails to Sirius XM with only a minimal response. They are doing all they can to spread the word that this award-winning DJ is being cut from the air. In fact Shannon has heard that Sirius XM Radio is reducing the number of country music channels offered.

"Why wasn't a survey done by the company to see what people want to listen to," Shannon said. "Instead, someone who has probably never listened to Country Dan's show made this really bad decision."

Many fans, including many truck drivers, said once Dixon's show is off Sirius XM and the country offerings are diminished they will get rid of the service completely.

"We talk to hundreds of truckers on the road, and they have all said they would no longer be subscribers of Sirius XM Satellite Radio," Dressler said. "We spend days at a time on the road being

away from family and friends, and it's nice to have at least four hours in the evening to sit back and enjoy a real down-to-earth show.”

Shannon said the goal of sending e-mails and circulating the petition is to inform listeners of what is happening with satellite radio, whether they are a fan of Dixon's or not. Her research has found that layoffs began in the middle of October not long after the two radio providers merged. She's also discovered that Sirius XM has a debt of \$1.1 billion and doesn't understand how cutting a popular DJ can help them – especially with so many planning to discontinue their service.

“How can a company who is so far in debt afford to lose even one customer,” Shannon said. “Everyone understands that a company has to downsize from time to time, but in this situation you would think they would want to keep one of their most popular on-air personalities. We hope that Sirius XM will reconsider the rehiring Country Dan. It would definitely be a plus for the company.”

Shannon said those interested in signing the petition can contact her at (765) 289-4600 or Dressler at (608) 732-2097.

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