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To Whom It May Concern:

One of the most effective outreach activities that I have witnessed in the setting of motor sports is the band, Cross Country, directed by Leo Johnson of Whitehouse, Tennessee, and I recommend them for your consideration. I have known Leo and been around Cross Country for the past 5 years, and I have witnessed the effectiveness of their ministry/outreach activity in a variety of settings.

The settings for most of the occasions upon which I have worked with Cross Country have been in the motor sports arena. The National Fellowship of Raceway Ministries provides a variety of outreach activities to share Christ with fans attending NASCAR and Indy Car races, and Leo and/or the Cross Country band have been a significant part of that activity. I have utilized their talents to lead worship during chapel services, to provide Christian concerts, and to provide music/worship for gatherings of Raceway Ministries people from all over the United States as we gather in various cities each January for our Annual Meeting. In addition, as chairman of Texas Alliance Raceway Ministries, I have utilized Cross Country on several occasions in our ministry at Texas Motor Speedway. In my travels to various speedways to provide leadership as the Executive Director of the NFRM, I have witnessed the outreach efforts of Cross Country at several locations across the country, including Bristol Motor Speedway, Martinsville Speedway and others.

Some of the strengths exhibited by Leo and Cross Country include the following. First, they are very talented and provide excellent music. Leo is a very talented singer and rhythm guitarist, and the other members of the band demonstrate excellence as performers through guitar, percussion, keyboards, violin/fiddle and other instruments. With a wide variety of styles, their music catches the attention of race fans immediately.

Second, the band knows how to use the music they play to guide the listeners through an outreach experience. A tasteful hard rock song will gather the crowd; fun songs with a humorous twist keep the crowd listening; patriotic songs bring tears to the eyes of everyone in the crowd; excellent presentations of Christian music communicate the message of the gospel very clearly; and one of the most unique abilities of Cross Country is the use of popular, secular