

March 27, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554



Re: *Noncommercial Educational Station Fundraising for Third-Party Non-Profit Organizations, MB Docket No. 12-106*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Last spring the Federal Communications Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding “Noncommercial Educational Station Fundraising for Third-Party Non-Profit Organizations” (MB Docket No. 12-106). On behalf of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), I thank you for your announcement at the Arizona State University field hearing in October 2011 that eventually led to this proceeding, where you had proposed “giv[ing] religious and other noncommercial broadcasters more flexibility to raise money for charities,” an idea that was endorsed by the FCC’s *Information Needs of Communities Report*. While this NPRM cites NRB as the initiating force behind this concept, your vital leadership on this issue has been instrumental and is much appreciated. In light of your impending departure, I respectfully urge that you consider placing the finalization of this rulemaking on your checklist prior to vacating your position on the Commission in the weeks ahead.

NRB is firmly convinced, as we stated in our Comments and Reply that were filed last summer, that the concept at the heart of this proceeding and as clarified in our filings will serve an essential public interest not only by facilitating the charitable impulse of listeners and viewers, but also by aiding non-profit groups in meeting critical community needs through partnerships with broadcasting stations. As you know, currently NCE stations are prohibited from on-air fundraising for other non-profits unless they are provided a waiver by the Commission. NRB believes the current practice of the Commission issuing waivers for mass catastrophes or exceptional incidents should be retained, but that this new proposed rule also be implemented as it will be a “win-win” in the public interest.

Thank you again for your years of leadership at the Federal Communications Commission. We are grateful for your exemplary public service and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Frank Wright, Ph.D.
President & CEO

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