



Resolution

OPPOSING THE PERFORMANCE RIGHTS ACT

- WHEREAS** the United States Congress has introduced the Performance Rights Act, which could create a new and additional copyright royalty entitlement regarding music which would be imposed as a fee on broadcasters that play music, and would be in addition to those existing fees that result from existing copyright royalty rights;
- WHEREAS** these bills purport to advance the creative, intellectual property rights of music “performers,” yet in reality according to testimony in congressional hearings, a substantial share of at least half of all such new music “performance” fees would go to the music record companies rather than to the performers;
- WHEREAS** such a new “performance rights” fee would devastate the radio music industry, and in particular Christian radio, at a time when both advertising revenues and charitable donations have declined and Christian radio is facing unprecedented economic challenges; and at the same time this proposed legislation ignores the success of the traditional relationship of mutual benefit that has existed between radio, which has hitherto played music without remunerating music performers, and music performers, who benefit from free air-play promotion over radio which in turn has been shown to have been a primary factor in facilitating the sales of the CD’s and the music of musical performers;
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters urges Congress to oppose the Performance Rights Act.



Resolution

URGING CONGRESS AND THE FCC TO EXERCISE CAUTION REGARDING REGULATION OF THE INTERNET

- WHEREAS** the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has previously issued a Notice of Proposed Rule-Making on the subject of regulating the Internet, and Congress has considered legislative proposals on the same subject, and the FCC has also recently initiated a proceeding regarding its legal jurisdiction to regulate the Internet;
- WHEREAS** and National Religious Broadcasters has warned the FCC in prior filings and Comments that the Commission needs to first identify and define the existing problems in the Internet that would warrant a regulatory framework, which it has failed to do, and second, that the Commission needs to adequately recognize and then to develop a strategy for preserving the First Amendment rights of Internet communicators, which it has also failed to do;
- WHEREAS** new federal regulations relating to the operations of the Internet, if done hastily or inadvisably, could infringe the First Amendment rights of Christian communicators who use the Internet and could also inhibit innovation and investment in this critical electronic communications platform, and that therefore the FCC should pursue the narrowest possible avenues of regulation with the greatest amount of caution;
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters urges the Federal Communications Commission and the Congress, before considering any new regulatory framework for the Internet, to first identify and define the existing problems in the Internet that would warrant such regulation, and second, to recognize the First Amendment rights of Internet communicators and then to develop a strategy for adequately preserving those rights, and third to pursue the narrowest possible avenues of regulation with the greatest amount of caution.



Resolution

URGING THE FCC TO EXERCISE CAUTION REGARDING ANY INTRUSION INTO THE “FUTURE OF THE MEDIA” AND TO AVOID INFRINGING THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

- WHEREAS** the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched a “Future of Media” proceeding where it has expressed concerns over the purported decline in the quality and standards of news journalism, and the purported decrease in relevant news coverage and information, and has also noted the trend of newspapers and other print publications to either discontinue entirely or to convert to a digital format;
- WHEREAS** the Commission has been presented with various solutions to these perceived problems in the media, including such things as, in effect, super-funding public broadcasting, and/or having the federal government propose journalism standards for the media;
- WHEREAS** Craig Parshall, NRB’s Senior Vice-President and General Counsel was invited to make a presentation at the FCC’s “Future of Media” panel proceeding, at which time Mr. Parshall warned the FCC not to intrude into the business of controlling or managing media content or standards and not to attempt to direct the future of media in America which would necessarily infringe the Freedom of the Press; but at the same time Mr. Parshall urged the Commission to adopt new rules that would help facilitate the growth and success of non-profit media organizations including non-commercial Christian radio and television, by relaxing current restrictions on the right of non-commercial broadcasters to raise funds for worthy 501(c)(3) groups, and by liberalizing existing restrictions on the ability of non-commercial broadcasters to raise revenues through private sponsorship and underwriting grants;
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters urges the FCC not to intrude into the business of controlling or managing media content or standards and not to attempt to direct the future of media in America, all of which would necessarily infringe the Freedom of the Press, but rather to facilitate non-profit media by adopting new rules that would help facilitate the growth and success of non-profit media organizations including non-commercial Christian radio and television, by relaxing current restrictions on the right of non-commercial broadcasters to raise funds for worthy 501(c)(3) groups, and by liberalizing existing restrictions on the ability of non-commercial broadcasters to raise revenues through private sponsorship and underwriting grants.



Resolution

OPPOSING THE COERCED DIVESTMENT OF SPECTRUM

- WHEREAS** the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering the need of the wireless industry for spectrum that would be used for new wireless devices;
- WHEREAS** the Commission has isolated incumbent television spectrum currently assigned to, and used by licensed television broadcasters in particular as a useful source for such spectrum for the wireless industry;
- WHEREAS** the Commission is considering alternative means to appropriate sufficient spectrum from existing television licensees, and at present is stating that all such means would be “voluntary;” yet the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) have filed Comments in FCC proceedings warning the Commission of the high probability that such alternatives could have a coercive, damaging effect on television licenses, including NRB members;
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters urges the Federal Communications Commission to refrain from imposing any conditions or regulations on broadcasters which would have the direct, or indirect effect, of coercing broadcasters to give up spectrum by the threatened use of penalties, or increased or new regulatory burdens, or by any other means that would work a disadvantage to those broadcasters who choose not to divest themselves of any of their current spectrum, or which would unfairly force such broadcasters to unwillingly divest themselves of any spectrum.



Resolution

OPPOSING THE NEW 1099 REPORTING RULES

- WHEREAS** the United States Congress has passed and President Obama has signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act which contains section 9006, which creates a new rule starting in 2012 that mandates that organizations and businesses must now file a separate 1099 form with the IRS for each corporation, individual, or any other entity to whom such organization or business pays at least \$600 in a calendar year;
- WHEREAS** this new law creates a new reporting mandate that will impose a huge administrative burden on organizations, including non-profit groups, so that additional staff may be necessary just to comply with this requirement; and National Religious Broadcasters estimates that its current average of form 1099 filings, which now is approximately twenty such forms filed with the IRS per year, will likely increase to several hundred 1099 forms that must be filed with the IRS per year;
- WHEREAS** this new law leaves many key terms undefined so that even organizations that seek legal opinions on how to comply with this mandate will remain in the dark on precisely what the law requires;
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters urges Congress to repeal the 1099 form mandates that are contained in section 9006 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.



Resolution

OPPOSING THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

- WHEREAS** the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is pending before the House of Representatives and the Senate;
- WHEREAS** ENDA creates special legal protections in employment for homosexuality and bisexuality, among other such practices; and it creates a policy that radically departs from the Judaeo-Christian foundations of our nation; and it further enshrines as protected, a category of personal sexual conduct which enjoys no foundation in the Constitution, nor in the history of our nation's founding philosophy of "liberty" and at the same time fails to adequately protect the right of Christian ministries, organizations, and employers to be exempted from the provisions of this legislation;
- WHEREAS** ENDA would jeopardize the religious freedoms of religious broadcasters and other Christian ministries and would unduly burden their freedoms to make faith-based employment decisions, a position articulated in testimony presented by National Religious Broadcasters through its General Counsel in hearings before both the House of Representatives and the Senate;
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters opposes the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and calls upon President Barack Obama, if ENDA is passed by Congress, to veto such legislation.



Resolution

PRAYING FOR OUR PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

- WHEREAS** President Barack Obama and the members of Congress in the Senate and the House of Representatives have been duly elected and serve in those high offices;
- WHEREAS** America faces unprecedented challenges, including our national security, our economy and our spiritual direction as a people;
- WHEREAS** Holy Scripture directs us in I Timothy 2:1 that “entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgiving to made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior;”
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters Board of Directors individually and as a group pledge to earnestly pray and call upon Christians everywhere to earnestly pray for President Barack Obama and the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.



Resolution

URGING NRB MEMBERS TO REMEMBER OUR ARMED FORCES

- WHEREAS** there are hundreds of thousands of Americans in our armed forces who have been, are being, or will be deployed to dangerous, far-away places around the world;
- WHEREAS** our men and women in uniform are performing an honorable and indispensable service to America as they defend us from foreign adversaries, and provide for our common defense;
- WHEREAS** service in the branches of our military necessarily involves personal, familial and marital sacrifice, physical danger, and economic and personal stress;
- RESOLVED** National Religious Broadcasters urges its members to honor and affirm the importance and value of the American military, and to pray for our active duty members of the military and for our veterans and for all of their families, and National Religious Broadcasters further urges its members to encourage their listeners, viewers, and supporters to do the same.



Resolution

REMEMBERING THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION AND LEGACY OF DR. BEN ARMSTRONG

- WHEREAS** Dr. Ben Armstrong passed from this world and into the presence of his Lord and Savior in December of 2010; and
- WHEREAS** Dr. Armstrong was a faithful minister of the Gospel, the recipient of several advanced degrees, a theological teacher, an author, a radio broadcaster, and the 1998 inductee into NRB's Hall of Fame; and
- WHEREAS** Dr. Armstrong served as the administrative head of National Religious Broadcasters for twenty three years, starting in 1966; and
- WHEREAS** during those critical years, it was Dr. Armstrong's vision, dedication, and prayerful commitment to the Lord that led NRB from a fledgling organization operating out of a small room in his home, with only a part-time secretary, to an effective and professional national organization which now enjoys a significant presence on Capitol Hill; and
- WHEREAS** President Ronald Reagan recognized Dr. Armstrong's leadership, in 1986, by voicing a personal tribute and praising him "for being the patriot that you are, the man of God that you are, my thanks; May He bless you and Ruth as you start your next twenty years;" and therefore be it
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters honors the stellar contribution, the personal sacrifice, and the leadership vision of Dr. Ben Armstrong, by dedicating our national convention, NRB 2011, to his memory; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the Capitol Hill Office of the NRB will henceforth be designated as the Ben Armstrong Center for Media Freedom.



Resolution

THE BILLY GRAHAM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATIONS

- WHEREAS** Billy Graham is the best-known broadcaster, pastor and evangelist of his era, and is beloved by the community of Christian broadcasters; and
- WHEREAS** Dr. Graham exemplified a commitment to excellence, creativity, and biblical fidelity in his use of electronic communications media in furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not only in America but world-wide; and
- WHEREAS** The National Religious Broadcasters deems it fitting and proper that a special award be created to honor the achievements of Dr. Graham, and to serve as an encouragement to present and future Christian broadcasters and communicators; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters hereby institutes the Billy Graham Award for Excellence in Christian Communications, which henceforth shall be presented to a Christian organization that effectively and creatively uses multiple electronic media technologies in fulfillment of its mission, while maintaining fidelity to the message of love, redemption, and hope found in the Holy Scriptures.



Resolution

International Persecution of Christians

- WHEREAS** there is a persistent and widespread international persecution of Christians not only in Northern Africa and the Middle East, but elsewhere in the world; and
- WHEREAS** previously the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom had recommended that the President should designate Iraq a “country of particular concern” under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 because of the ongoing and severe abuses of religious freedom in Iraq, particularly against Christians; recently, in Afghanistan, Said Musa, a former Muslim who had converted to Christianity was arrested, imprisoned, and threatened with a death sentence for his expression of Christian faith; and Shoaib Assadullah, an Afghan Christian who was arrested for giving a Bible to a man who later reported him to authorities, remains behind bars, fearing the death penalty; and
- WHEREAS** this threat has become so apparent that other governmental bodies have decried acts of violence and discrimination committed against Christians; when the Joint Committee of the Conference of European Churches and of the Council of Bishops’ Conferences of Europe recently called upon the European Union to advocate more vigorously on behalf of persecuted Christians, the foreign ministers of the European Union this month responded by releasing a statement condemning the global persecution of Christians; and
- WHEREAS** The current Obama Administration has not focused in its public statements or policies on this obvious problem of international persecution of Christians, and without a strong position from the United States, Christians will find themselves in ever increasing peril, particularly in Northern African and Middle Eastern nations that are experiencing instability, civil unrest, and ill-defined political futures; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** National Religious Broadcasters calls upon President Barack Obama to make a bold public statement against the international persecution of Christians, and to further enforce that position through his choice of Executive Branch appointments and through his foreign policy decisions.