



Resolution

COMMENDING THE FCC CHAIRMAN ON SUPPORTING NRB'S RULE CHANGE REGARDING NON-COMMERCIAL STATIONS

- WHEREAS** FCC rules prohibit non-commercial broadcast stations from substantially changing their programming day in order to raise funds for other worthy non-profit organizations, absent a specific waiver from the FCC, and the FCC has granted such waivers only in the case of massive disasters such as Hurricane Katrina or the Haiti earthquake; and
- WHEREAS** the National Religious Broadcasters has promoted, in its dealings with the FCC, a rule change whereby non-commercial stations could use up to one-percent of their annual air-time to promote and to raise funds for non-profit, 501 (c)(3) groups without having to obtain a waiver from the FCC; and
- WHEREAS** NRB's Senior Vice-President and General Counsel Craig Parshall was invited by the FCC to present testimony promoting this rule change at a Commission field hearing in Phoenix, Arizona, and at such hearing FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski announced his support of this rule change, and announced that he was directing the Media Bureau of the FCC to move forward with such a change; and
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby commends the Chairman of the FCC, Julius Genachowski, for his support of a rule change that would permit non-commercial broadcasters to raise funds during on-air, programming time, without obtaining a specific waiver from the FCC, and further encourages the FCC and the Congress to consider other similar ways in which non-commercial broadcasters and non-profit organizations can be energized and invigorated both operationally and financially to be more effective in pursuing their missions, through the removal of outdated, or counter-productive regulatory and legislative impediments.



Resolution

COMMENDING THE FCC FOR ENFORCING INDECENCY RULES

- WHEREAS** the FCC has enforced its rules that prohibit indecent communications over radio and television during the hours when children are most likely to be listening or viewing; and
- WHEREAS** the major, commercial television broadcast networks have opposed these indecency rules, arguing that they violate the provisions of the First Amendment, resulting in an appeal pending before the United States Supreme Court, titled *FCC v. Fox Television Stations, Inc., et al*; and
- WHEREAS** the National Religious Broadcasters have, through its office of General Counsel, and aided by the law firm of Hardy, Carey, Chautin & Balkin, LLP, filed an Amicus Curiae (“friend of the court”) brief with the Supreme Court, supporting the FCC’s position, and pointing out that indecent speech over the airwaves when children are likely to be exposed fits well within those narrow exceptions to the Free Speech provisions of the First Amendment, and that the FCC rules are fully compatible with the First Amendment; and
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby commends the FCC for its commitment to decency over the airwaves and for enforcing, and defending, its rules prohibiting indecent communications during the hours when children are most likely to be listening or viewing.



Resolution

COMMENDING THE FCC FOR TECHNICAL ELIMINATION OF THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE BUT URGING VIGILANCE AND PASSAGE OF THE BROADCASTER FREEDOM ACT

- WHEREAS** the FCC has removed the so-called “fairness doctrine” from the Code of Federal Regulations, noting that its continued presence in that code even after the FCC abandoned the rule, was a technical oversight; and
- WHEREAS** the “fairness doctrine” was a harmful FCC doctrine that stifled free speech rights of broadcasters and gave the FCC improper control over the content decisions of broadcasting stations, but the Congress as a whole has been reluctant to pass the Broadcaster Freedom Act which would permanently deprive the FCC of jurisdiction to ever impose the “fairness doctrine” in the future; and
- WHEREAS** there is also a risk that the principles of the “fairness doctrine” may find their way, simply by another name, into other rules of the FCC, including such things as “localism” mandates that could impact the freedom of broadcasters; and
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby commends the FCC for removing the “fairness doctrine”, as a technical matter, from the Code of Federal Regulations, but urges vigilance among broadcasters and within the FCC to insure that the principles of that doctrine do not find their way into other rules, and further calling on Congress to pass the Broadcaster Freedom Act to prevent the “fairness doctrine” from ever being imposed in the future.



Resolution

CRISTIAN RADIO NEEDS TO BE ON SMART PHONES

- WHEREAS** More than 241 million Americans rely on free, local radio to provide entertainment, inspiration and local community news and information; and
- WHEREAS** Free, local radio has been the backbone of the public warning system since the 1950's in America, providing emergency alerts, live coverage during emergencies and information on storm paths and evacuation routes; and
- WHEREAS** Nearly all Americans own a mobile phone and consider it part of their daily lives; and
- WHEREAS** Mobile networks that depend on the cellular or broadband infrastructure can become overwhelmed in times of crisis due to network congestion, but a mobile phone equipped with a radio receiver could avoid this problem, continuing to deliver instantaneous emergency alerts while other networks become disabled, thus saving lives in times of crisis;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** That the National Religious Broadcasters calls on wireless carriers to expand the availability of broadcast radio service in mobile phones; and be it further resolved that the National Religious Broadcasters calls on Congress and the Administration to encourage marketplace cooperation on this issue to ensure the public safety.



Resolution

HONORING THE NATION OF ISRAEL

- WHEREAS** the creation of the modern State of Israel, and Israel's history, and its current existence, is all evidence of the providential hand of God and the fulfillment of the promises of God set forth in the Bible; and
- WHEREAS** Scripture also tells us (Psalm 122:6-7) to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels;'" and
- WHEREAS** Israel continues to be subjected to hostile threats, overt attacks, and acts of terrorism perpetrated by its enemies; and certain nations, and entities that have shown historical hostility toward Israel have urged the United Nations to force a vote in the U.N. Assembly on the creation of a Palestinian State within the borders of Israel, thus ignoring the overtures of Israel to negotiate a peaceful resolution of differences between Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters expresses its support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people, and all peace-loving people of the Holy Land; and the National Religious Broadcasters further urge the President of the United States to stand by Israel in its time of need, and to veto, through the United States representative on the U.N. Security Council, any effort at this time to create a Palestinian State within the borders of Israel; and further that the members of the National Religious Broadcasters agree to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for God's protection over all of Israel, and for all people of good will who seek peace in the Holy Land and for the spiritual well-being of the Jewish people.



Resolution

OPPOSING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY VIOLATIONS IN HEALTH CARE

- WHEREAS** President Obama supported, and Congress passed, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), popularly referred to in the media as “Obamacare,” which contained the requirement that religious institutions must provide insurance coverage for employees and their families which would include contraceptives including those that would induce abortions, despite the moral or spiritual objections of such institutions;
- WHEREAS** Such a requirement violates the religious liberty protections inherent in, and appearing on the face of the First Amendment, particularly in the light of the recent unanimous decision by the United States Supreme Court which has underscored the right of faith organizations to possess religious autonomy from government interference regarding the decisions of those organizations to define their mission and beliefs.
- WHEREAS** Recently, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that there would be no exemption for religious institutions that provide education and other social services to members of the public outside of their faith group, a decision that would negatively affect the vast majority of religious organizations that provide medical or health services;
- WHEREAS** On February 10, 2012 President announced a new modification of his health care plan, purportedly placing more of the burden on insurance companies rather than on religious institutions, to provide controversial services regarding contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs; nevertheless, the key definitions, actual real-life implementation, and the effect of this modification is very much unknown;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby urges President Obama to give full faith and credit to the rights of religious autonomy of faith-based organizations, and to direct the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to implement a broad exemption that will protect, from the insurance mandate of providing coverage for contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs, all religious institutions and organizations that have faith-based objections; and
- BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters urge Congress, if the Supreme Court does not strike down the PPACA in its entirety, to pass legislation providing a clear, broad exemption that will protect, from the insurance mandate of providing coverage for contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs, all religious institutions and organizations that have faith-based objections.



Resolution

PRAISING THE FCC STAFF REPORT REGARDING SOME OF ITS "FUTURE OF THE MEDIA" FINDINGS

WHEREAS

the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched a staff-level proceeding headed by Mr. Steve Waldman, with a focus and subject matter commonly known as the "Future of Media" where it has addressed 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 the trend of newspapers and other print publications to either discontinue entirely or to convert to a digital format; and

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

WHEREAS

the FCC staff-level working group issued a final report in June, 2011 titled, "Information Needs of Communities: The Changing Media Landscape in a Broadband Age;" and in that report: (1) it supported the NRB proposal for liberalizing FCC rules so as to enable non-commercial stations to raise funds on-air for other, third-party 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations without the need for hard-to-obtain FCC waivers; (2) the valuable contribution of Christian broadcasters was specifically noted; (3) ill-conceived broadcast content-control ideas such as "localism" mandates and the "Fairness Doctrine" were expressly rejected; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the National Religious Broadcasters urges the FCC to formally adopt the specific recommendation in the June, 2011 report titled, "Information Needs of Communities: The Changing Media Landscape in a Broadband Age" where it supported the NRB proposal for liberalizing FCC rules so as to enable non-commercial stations to raise funds on-air for other, third-party 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations without the need to obtain FCC waivers; and urges the FCC to state its formal disapproval of those two ill-conceived broadcast content-control ideas, namely "localism" mandates and the "Fairness Doctrine;" and further welcomes the FCC to further consider and to recognize, where appropriate, the valuable contributions that Christian broadcasters make to their communities and to the media landscape as a whole.

Approved by the Board of Directors February 18, 2012



Resolution

PRAYING FOR OUR PRESIDENT, CONGRESS AND THE FCC

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- WHEREAS** President Barack Obama and the members of Congress in the Senate and the House of Representatives have been duly elected, and the Chairman and the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission have been duly appointed, and all serve in those high public offices; and
- WHEREAS** America faces unprecedented challenges, including our national security, an economy that continues to struggle, and a nation and a people that many times seem to be spiritually adrift; and
- WHEREAS** Holy Scripture directs us in I Timothy 2:1 that “entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgiving be 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;” and
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 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, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and for the Federal Communications Commission.



Resolution

RESTATING SPIRITUAL MANDATE

WHEREAS

the Bible is inspired by God, without error in the original texts, and is the infallible and authoritative Word of God; and there is one living and sovereign God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; our Lord Jesus Christ is God's everlasting Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; and our Lord Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He died, He was buried, on the third day He rose from the dead, and He ascended bodily into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father; and our Lord Jesus Christ by His perfect obedience to God and by His suffering and death obtained forgiveness of sins for all who repent and believe in Him; and our Lord Jesus Christ will physically return to this earth and will gather His elect, raise the dead, judge the nations, and establish His kingdom; and both the saved and the lost are resurrected, they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation; and regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the salvation of lost and sinful man and is administered solely by the grace of God through our faith in Jesus Christ; and the present and indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit unites believers in our Lord Jesus Christ and enables Christians to live a godly life; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby requests all members to seek the Lord, repent of all sins revealed by the Holy Spirit, and with a humble heart, gladly surrender to His grace; and further that the National Religious Broadcasters encourage all members to constantly pray for missions, for the freedom of Christian communicators and broadcasters to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in an unfettered manner, and for liberty to live the Christian faith in a manner that is free from unreasonable governmental intrusion or interference; and finally that the National Religious Broadcasters and its members commit ourselves and our members to the task of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, whose saving sacrifice on the cross alone is the only ultimate source of hope and redemption for the human race, and to the task of living lives that honor and glorify our Father who is in heaven and His only Son, Jesus Christ.



Resolution

URGING AGAINST FORCED MOVE TO VHF DURING THE SPECTRUM RE-PACKING

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- WHEREAS** the FCC has committed itself to reallocate some existing television spectrum for the use of the wireless industry; and
- WHEREAS** the FCC has a mandate to encourage the existence of at least one VHF station in every state; and
- WHEREAS** UHF has, in many cases, superior transmission characteristics to VHF in the current digital age, and some NRB broadcasters currently operate within the UHF band, and a forced change to the VHF band could cause hardships to such broadcasters; and
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby urges the FCC not to require any full power television station to be converted from UHF to VHF during the spectrum reallocation.



Resolution

URGING THAT ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES NOT INTERFERE WITH BROADCAST FREQUENCIES

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- WHEREAS** our nation is currently exploring alternative sources for energy, including but not limited to the use of wind turbines, which do not come within the jurisdiction over oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and
- WHEREAS** research has documented that wind turbines can cause interference with radio or television broadcast frequency that is generated within proximity of such turbines; and
- WHEREAS** at least one member broadcaster of the National Religious Broadcasters has experienced frequency interference as a result of a wind turbine “farm” in operation within proximity of the broadcast facility and its towers, and anecdotal evidence also indicates that the FCC has received similar complaints; and
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby urges local, state and federal officials and agencies that license and oversee the installation and operation of alternate energy sites, including but not limited to wind turbines, to be mindful of potential interference with the frequencies of existing radio and television broadcasters, and to prevent such interference by appropriate site planning for such alternative energy sites.



Resolution

URGING THE CONGRESS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE THE AUTONOMY OF RELIGIOUS NON-PROFIT GROUPS

- WHEREAS** Senator Charles Grassley, in his capacity as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, has considered potential changes to IRS rules that impact religious non-profit organizations; and
- WHEREAS** Senator Grassley has appointed the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability (ECFA) to form an advisory committee made up of representatives of the religious and non-profit community to consider such issues; and
- WHEREAS** the United States Supreme Court has ruled that, under the First Amendment, non-profit religious organizations possess a constitutional right of autonomy in many of their essential functions and operations, and our Founding Fathers envisioned that churches and religious groups should be able to operate free of entangling, or oppressive oversight from the government; and
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby urges Senator Charles Grassley, and the Congress, to exercise extreme caution in considering potential legislative or regulatory changes that impact religious non-profit organizations, and urges them to avoid any changes to IRS rules, or tax policies or the introduction of any new legislation which would have the realistic result of minimizing the autonomy of religious non-profit groups, or increasing the nature or extent of government surveillance over, or interference with, religious organizations.



Resolution

URGING THE FCC NOT TO PREJUDICE BROADCASTERS DURING THE SPECTRUM REALLOCATION

- WHEREAS** the FCC has committed itself to reallocate some existing television spectrum for the use of the wireless industry; and
- WHEREAS** the FCC has indicated, up to now, that it will appropriate spectrum only from willing television stations that voluntarily choose to participate in a spectrum auction; and
- WHEREAS** the spectrum reallocation, even if “voluntary,” can create financial and operational hardship on existing broadcasters who are required, as part of the reallocation of spectrum, to change channel designations and call-letters, because among other hardships, they may have to change their logo, branding, and marketing efforts, and their promotional outreach to their listening audience and supporters, and may also incur engineering expenses and may experience negative affects on signal strength or frequency integrity; and
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby urges the FCC not to interfere with, or impose a hardship on, existing broadcasters during the spectrum reallocation, including the imposition of operational or financial burdens, or the diminishing of signal strength or frequency integrity.



Resolution

URGING WEB-BASED NEW MEDIA COMPANIES TO RESPECT FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS SPEECH

WHEREAS

the National Religious Broadcasters has commenced the John Milton Project for Religious Free Speech for the purpose of investigating the potential of anti-Christian censorship occurring on new media Internet-interactive communications, to-wit: Apple's iTunes App Store of its iPhone, Google, Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, and Internet Service Providers Comcast, Verizon and AT&T; and

WHEREAS

on September 15, 2011 the final report of the John Milton Project was released in a press event at the National Press Club in Washington D.C., which findings indicated that all of those companies, with the sole exception of Twitter, have either practiced anti-Christian censorship or have generated express policies that will invariably lead to such censorship, or both; and, at that press event at the National Press Club a panel of experts was convened which in addition to NRB's Senior Vice-President and General Counsel Craig Parshall also included a former FCC Commissioner, a senior counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, a law professor and dean from Liberty University School of Law and a director from the Ethics and Public Policy Center, and the clear consensus of the panel was that these new media companies have, or in the future likely will commit acts of viewpoint censorship, and particularly in the religious realm, unless they change course in their practices and policies; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the National Religious Broadcasters calls upon Internet-based new media communications companies Apple, Google, Facebook, Myspace, and Internet Service Providers Comcast, Verizon and AT&T, and all other web-based communication platforms to respect fully the free speech rights of Christians and the value of all otherwise lawful religious viewpoints that are expressed on or through the Internet, and to adopt practices and policies that reflect the same, and to work with the National Religious Broadcasters and other like-minded organizations in effectuating that goal.