



Resolution

AFFIRMING THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF “MUST CARRY” LAW FOR RELIGIOUS TELEVISION

-
-
- WHEREAS** religious television stations providing valuable content and services for their local communities have blossomed in recent decades, and “Must Carry” law enables many local TV broadcast stations, including religious stations, to be viewed on pay-TV platforms. Today’s “Must Carry” rights were enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1992 in the *Cable Act*, and Congress then declared that cable systems have an “economic incentive” to “delete, reposition, or not carry local broadcast signals” and that, without Must-Carry rules, the “viability” of broadcasters “will be seriously jeopardized.” “Must Carry” law was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997 in *Turner Broadcasting System v. FCC*;
- WHEREAS** history of non-carriage by cable companies prior to “Must Carry” provisions suggests that religious TV would again be ignored in the absence of those rules. Indeed, rather than carrying family-friendly programming, the cable industry appears more inclined to seek profits from programming that includes sex, violence, and profanity inimical to the development of healthy families and communities;
- WHEREAS** *The Next Generation Television Marketplace Act* (S. 2008/ H.R. 3675), legislation offered in the 112th Congress, would eliminate “Must Carry” rules for local commercial TV broadcasters. Eliminating “Must Carry” law would be of significant harm, even fatal, to TV stations NRB represents and detrimental to the viewers that rely on these stations for community services and spiritual guidance;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby affirms the vital importance of “Must Carry” law for religious television; opposes legislative or regulatory efforts to eliminate or weaken current “Must Carry” law, which is sound and unobtrusive; urges Members of Congress and Executive Branch officials to uphold Must-Carry law that is crucial to many religious television stations; and, further, encourages Members of Congress and Executive Branch officials to recognize the important place of these ministries for TV consumers.



Resolution

CALLING ON THE FCC NOT TO AUCTION RELIGIOUS TV OFF THE AIR

-
-
- WHEREAS** Religious television stations providing valuable content and services for their local communities have blossomed in recent decades, and those broadcasters require access to the airwaves to continue their missions;
- WHEREAS** NRB's many members include a significant number of full power, Class A, and low power television (LPTV) broadcasters that produce and/or telecast religious programming. The public service provided by these broadcasters is uniquely local, often showcasing programming with local churches or non-profits, and providing wholesome, family-oriented viewing choices;
- WHEREAS** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is working to implement a voluntary incentive auction of television broadcast spectrum in order to make more spectrum available for wireless use. The FCC formally began this proceeding in September 2012 in hopes of finalizing rules in 2013 and completing the auction in 2014. The FCC's statements to date leave open concerns for all NRB TV ministries regarding their place on the airwaves after this auction, and LPTV is in a particularly precarious position;
- WHEREAS** NRB filed public comments in the FCC spectrum auction proceeding in January 2013 recommending that in the spectrum auction proceeding the interests of the viewing public be kept paramount; the FCC exercise the highest degree of transparency in the planned operation of the auction and in the standards it will employ in deciding the fate of broadcast stations; suggestions for a method to ensure equitable reimbursement for stations forced to relocate; and that the valuable localism provided by LPTV be protected in accord with the "No Alter" clause inserted by Congress in the auction's authorizing legislation;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NRB, as part of its mission to keep the doors of electronic media open and accessible for religious broadcasters, hereby calls on the FCC in its spectrum auction proceeding to purposefully protect programming choices for Americans, specifically the religious and family programming that NRB TV Members provide free of charge to local communities; to take care not to auction any religious broadcaster, including LPTV stations, off the air; and to heed the entirety of NRB's detailed public comments formally submitted to the FCC on January 25, 2013.



Resolution

DEFENDING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN THE WAKE OF A SUPREME COURT ASSAULT

WHEREAS

On June 26, 2013 the United States Supreme Court issued its ruling in the case of *United States v. Windsor*, in which the Court struck down a major portion of the *Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)* which had been passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton, an Act that declared that marriage was defined as one-man and one-woman for federal law purposes;

WHEREAS

The majority opinion in the *Windsor* case, authored by Justice Kennedy and joined-in by four other justices, used unusually harsh language in referring to the supporters of traditional marriage, and specifically singled out the House of Representatives because of its support for “traditional, (especially Judeo-Christian) morality,” and the Court’s majority accused those who held such beliefs as being guilty of a “desire to harm” homosexuals, and labeling those supporters of Judeo-Christian morality as perpetrators of “discrimination of an unusual character” which “demeans” homosexual couples, with the Court concluding that the treatment of same-sex couples as different from heterosexual couples has the effect to “degrade” and “demean” them and therefore can serve “no legitimate purpose” under the law;

WHEREAS

Four justices dissented in the case, and Justice Scalia noted in his strongly worded dissent that the effect of the majority opinion was to unfairly mistreat supporters of traditional morality and traditional marriage as if they were “unhinged members of a wild-eyed lynch mob,” and “enemies of the human race” and opponents of “human decency,” thus regarding them, according to Justice Scalia, as if they harbored “hate” toward their neighbor;

WHEREAS

NRB has been vigilant in monitoring the increasing number and ferocity of the attacks, both legal and cultural, against those who communicate Biblical truth, including the truth in Scripture regarding human relationships and the institution of marriage, ever mindful that the new federal hate crimes law still poses a threat to Christian communicators, and that new forms of so-called anti-discrimination laws may soon arise in the wake of the Supreme Court decision in the *Windsor* case which could seriously imperil the ability of Christian communicators to proclaim the whole counsel of God on the issues of the day;

**THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED**

that NRB urges its members to be “shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16) in understanding the times in which we live and the free speech and free exercise of religion threats that we face, fully appreciating the need for continued vigilance and for boldly standing for Biblical truth; and NRB further urges the Supreme Court, the White House, and the members of Congress as well as the Federal Communications Commission and all other federal agencies to recognize, and to protect, the fundamental religious liberties of Christian communicators as they continue to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the undiluted truth of Scripture.

Approved by the Board of Directors October 1, 2013



Resolution

FAIRNESS FOR RADIO REGARDING MUSIC

WHEREAS

the radio broadcasting industry has had a long, and mutually beneficial relationship with the music recording industry; further, those radio stations which have played music have paid copyright fees for music composers but have not had to shoulder the burden of paying any extra copyright fees to music performers, although in return they have also substantially benefited performers and music companies by airing and promoting their music; further, in the past, concerted attempts have been made in Congress to propose a “music performance right,” a financially devastating proposal whereby a burdensome new copyright fee would be imposed on stations playing music which would purportedly be for the benefit of music performers; further, National Religious Broadcasters believes that such attempts may well continue into the future;

WHEREAS

radio stations that web-cast music over the Internet currently pay substantial sums of money as copyright fees, and in the past, negotiations with the music industry representatives have been a difficult and an occasionally unfair process, and appeals to the Copyright Royalty Board judges for adjudication have resulted in decisions that have sometimes imposed unreasonable fees and have lacked a fair analysis of the interests of radio stations; further, the current system has become an insurmountable roadblock to new Internet radio business models, and rather than facilitating a growing and dynamic new media environment it has instead become an impediment to new Internet radio business models—models that could be bringing more music to larger audiences; further, legislative proposals have been introduced, including *The Internet Radio Fairness Act*, which attempt to supply solutions to some of these problems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby urge Congress to resist any attempt to create a “music performance right” that would impose a new copyright fee on radio stations that play over-the-air music; further, regarding web-casting music rates, National Religious Broadcasters also urge Congress to improve the sound recording licensing system in a way that is fair and reasonable to all parties and that will benefit our nation’s music creation and distribution communities and that will provide consistency, fairness, and predictability of rate structures so that rates will be capped in a way which will not be overly burdensome to all stations, both commercial and non-commercial, but which will energize new radio Internet business models.



Resolution

INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND FREE SPEECH

WHEREAS

National Religious Broadcasters expresses its deep concern over recent events in the Middle East involving violence against, and the murder of American diplomatic officials and staff, and the on-going persecution of Christians, and also expresses deep concern over the cries being made in that region for the continued stifling of religious liberty and the freedom of speech;

WHEREAS

religious liberty and the exercise of legitimate free speech are both being imperiled around the world, and at the same time the United States continues to stand as a beacon of liberty and freedom, and in particular in its example of religious liberty and freedom of speech compared to the other nations of the world;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby urge the President of the United States and the Secretary of State to denounce in the strongest terms, violence perpetrated against our embassies and our diplomatic staff as well as the on-going persecution of Christians around the world, and to also express deep concern over the cries being made in the Middle East region for the continued stifling of religious liberty and the freedom of speech; National Religious Broadcasters further urges the President and the Secretary of State to actively advocate to the international community the principles of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and to urge the adoption of similar standards in the rest of the world.



Resolution

PRAYING FOR THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, THE FCC AND THE SUPREME COURT

- WHEREAS** President Barack H. Obama and the members of the U.S. Congress in the Senate and the House of Representatives have been duly elected, and the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court and the Chairman and the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission have been duly appointed, and all serve in those high public offices;
- WHEREAS** America faces unprecedented challenges, including risks to our national security, an economy that continues to struggle, threats to our basic freedoms, and a nation and a people that many times seem to be spiritually adrift;
- WHEREAS** the U.S. Supreme Court will consider cases this year that center on our nation's acceptance of the definition of marriage, the union of one man and one woman, and, therefore, the Justices' deliberations may profoundly reinforce or undermine American families, the basic building blocks of our society, as well as the fundamental religious freedom rights of individuals and organizations that steadfastly uphold the definition of marriage in accordance with their faith;
- 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;"
- THEREFORE BE IT 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 Obama, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Supreme Court and for the Federal Communications Commission.



Resolution

PROTECTING THE AUTONOMY AND VITALITY OF NON-PROFIT MINISTRIES

WHEREAS

National Religious Broadcasters has promoted, in its dealings with the Federal Communications Commission (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 third-party non-profit, 501 (c)(3) groups without having to attempt, first, waivers from the FCC, which have become substantially unobtainable; further, that the FCC has, as a result, commenced a Notice of Proposed Rule-Making process wherein it proposed the adoption of a rule change patterned after the NRB's proposal, and NRB has filed its Comment and Reply in that proceeding, urging the FCC to adopt the substance of the NRB proposal;

WHEREAS

Senator Charles Grassley had appointed the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) to form an advisory commission made up of representatives of the religious and non-profit community to consider issues and potential changes to IRS rules that would impact religious non-profit organizations, and that the said commission has rendered its report on some of those issues; further, that the United States Supreme Court has ruled that, under the First Amendment, non-profit religious organizations and churches possess a constitutional right of autonomy in 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;

WHEREAS

suggestions have been made by Members of Congress and by Executive Branch officials, that the charitable deduction be minimized or eliminated, and NRB believes that reducing or eliminating the charitable deduction would have a devastating effect on non-profit religious organizations and would destroy some ministries and would negatively impact the good work of other ones that provide free services and great public benefits to their communities and to the nation;

**THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED**

that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby urge the FCC to adopt the substance of the NRB proposal regarding broadcasters' ability to use air-time to perform fundraising for third party non-profit organizations, and urge Congress not to make any changes to IRS rules that would negatively impact religious non-profit organizations, or which would create entangling, or oppressive oversight from the government, or that would impair the constitutional autonomy of religious organizations or churches; and, it further urges Congress not to enact and urges the President of the United States not to propose, the reduction or elimination of the charitable deduction.



Resolution

URGING NRB MEMBERS TO SUPPORT AND PRAY FOR COMUNICADORESUSA

- WHEREAS** NRB recognizes that Hispanics are not only the largest minority group in the United States, but their evangelical churches are a growing force in our nation, both in numbers and influence;
- WHEREAS** ComunicadoresUSA, an NRB-inspired support group for Hispanic broadcasters, was established four years ago after a meeting of veteran broadcasters and representatives of major ministries including Focus on the Family, the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) and In Touch Ministries;
- WHEREAS** ComunicadoresUSA seeks to “connect, equip and train Christian communicators to be more effective in their profession, ministry and calling;”
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** National Religious Broadcasters urges its members to support ComunicadoresUSA, and to pray for this association, and assist them in this endeavor as they work to positively impact the influence of Hispanics in the social, political and spiritual life of the nation with the life-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Resolution

URGING PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN EMPLOYMENT

- WHEREAS** Congress has repeatedly considered over the years the *Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)*, a bill that would grant legal employment protection to so-called “Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual and Transgender” (LGBT) persons, and Congress is doing so once again, with the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions having voted affirmatively to approve that bill;
- WHEREAS** *ENDA* would create new legal protections for “LGBT” persons based on categories of “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” which have no foundation in common sense, logic, or the original intent of the founders of our Constitution, while constraining and minimizing the free enterprise rights of private employers and jeopardizing the liberties of Christian employers who refrain from hiring “LGBT” persons;
- WHEREAS** *ENDA* purports to have a “religious exemption” for religious employers, however NRB’s General Counsel has testified before the House of Representatives and twice before the Senate that those so-called religious protections are woefully inadequate, and would provide no protection for Christian businesses like Christian publishing companies, book stores, counseling centers, commercial broadcasters and media companies, and countless other for-profit enterprises that are owned and operated by Christians, and regarding non-profit ministry organizations and churches, *ENDA* would at best only provide an exemption for only some but certainly not all, given the narrow language and confusing structure of *ENDA*’s so-called religious exemption;
- WHEREAS** News reports indicate that an unprecedented campaign is being mounted by “LGBT” activists and lobbyists dedicated to passage of *ENDA*;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NRB calls upon Congress to reject *ENDA*, as it is a legislative proposal that would fail to protect the basic religious liberties of Christian employers, and would result in a tide of employment discrimination lawsuits against faith-based places of employment that make hiring and firing decisions based on Biblical values.