



# Resolution

## CALLING ON CONGRESS TO UPHOLD “MUST CARRY” LAW FOR RELIGIOUS TELEVISION

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- WHEREAS** Religious television stations providing valuable content and services for their local communities have blossomed in recent decades, and legal local channel carriage responsibilities of pay-TV platforms, also known as “Must Carry” law, enable many local TV broadcast stations, including religious stations, to be viewed on those platforms. Today’s “Must Carry” rights were enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1992 and were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997;
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters many members include a significant number of television 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** 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;
- WHEREAS** *The Next Generation Television Marketplace Act (H.R.3720)* would eliminate “Must Carry” rules for local commercial TV broadcasters. Eliminating “Must Carry” law would be of significant harm, even fatal, to TV stations that NRB represents and detrimental to the viewers that rely on these stations for community services and spiritual guidance;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters hereby calls on Congress to uphold its decades-old commitment to carriage of local TV channels on pay-TV platforms, including cable networks; 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 programs; and, further, encourages Members of Congress and Executive Branch officials to recognize the important place of these ministries for TV consumers.

Approved by the Board of Directors February 22, 2014