



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 broadcasters (LPTV) 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 an auction of television broadcast spectrum in order to make more spectrum available for wireless use. 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 with FCC in January 2013 recommending that in the spectrum auction proceeding the interests of the viewing public be kept paramount; that 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. In addition, NRB filed a follow-up comment in May 2014 again emphasizing LPTV's critical role and that the FCC should do all in its power not to undermine LPTV through the spectrum auction.
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED** that NRB hereby calls on the FCC to take care not to auction any religious broadcaster off the air; rather, the FCC should keep the interests of the viewing public paramount in the auction proceeding and not undermine programming choices for Americans, specifically the religious and family programming that NRB TV Members provide free of charge to local communities.