



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.