



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.