



Resolution

URGING THE FCC TO EXERCISE CAUTION REGARDING ANY INTRUSION INTO THE “FUTURE OF THE MEDIA” AND TO AVOID INFRINGING THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

- WHEREAS** the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has launched a “Future of Media” proceeding where it has expressed concerns over the purported decline in the quality and standards of news journalism, and the purported decrease in relevant news coverage and information, and has also noted the trend of newspapers and other print publications to either discontinue entirely or to convert to a digital format;
- WHEREAS** the Commission has been presented with various solutions to these perceived problems in the media, including such things as, in effect, super-funding public broadcasting, and/or having the federal government propose journalism standards for the media;
- WHEREAS** Craig Parshall, NRB’s Senior Vice-President and General Counsel was invited to make a presentation at the FCC’s “Future of Media” panel proceeding, at which time Mr. Parshall warned the FCC not to intrude into the business of controlling or managing media content or standards and not to attempt to direct the future of media in America which would necessarily infringe the Freedom of the Press; but at the same time Mr. Parshall urged the Commission to adopt new rules that would help facilitate the growth and success of non-profit media organizations including non-commercial Christian radio and television, by relaxing current restrictions on the right of non-commercial broadcasters to raise funds for worthy 501(c)(3) groups, and by liberalizing existing restrictions on the ability of non-commercial broadcasters to raise revenues through private sponsorship and underwriting grants;
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters urges the FCC not to intrude into the business of controlling or managing media content or standards and not to attempt to direct the future of media in America, all of which would necessarily infringe the Freedom of the Press, but rather to facilitate non-profit media by adopting new rules that would help facilitate the growth and success of non-profit media organizations including non-commercial Christian radio and television, by relaxing current restrictions on the right of non-commercial broadcasters to raise funds for worthy 501(c)(3) groups, and by liberalizing existing restrictions on the ability of non-commercial broadcasters to raise revenues through private sponsorship and underwriting grants.