



Resolution

Calling on Christian Broadcasters to Comply with a High Standard of Financial Accountability

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- WHEREAS** Senator Charles Grassley has launched an investigation into six television “media ministries,” none of which are members of National Religious Broadcasters, regarding complaints relating to the financial dealings of those ministries in light of their status as 501(c)(3) tax exempt organizations; and
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters has voiced substantial concerns to Senator Grassley and the Senate Committee on Finance, regarding the potential over-breadth of the investigation and the excessive scope of information requested (in as much as no effort had been made to protect such ministries from having to produce documents and information which could disclose spiritual discussions, privileged internal staff and board decision-making, and mission-oriented discussions within such ministries on other than financial matters); similar concerns were also raised regarding the possible usurpation of the powers and functions of the Internal Revenue Service by the Senate, and also regarding the unconstitutional burdens to First Amendment religious freedoms related to the scope of the investigation; and
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters requires all but its smaller broadcaster members to also be members of the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability (ECFA) in order to insure high standards of financial accountability and stewardship; and
- WHEREAS** voluntary compliance by all Christian broadcasters with the highest standards of financial accountability and stewardship will serve as a positive witness to a watching world, is consistent with the commands of Scripture, and will help to dissuade those in Congress who otherwise might be inclined to impose drastic new measures on all Christian ministries simply because of suspicions regarding a very few; *Therefore be it*
- RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters urges all Christian broadcasters to practice the highest standards of financial accountability and stewardship and to join the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability (ECFA) if they meet the qualifying criteria of that organization.