



Resolution

COMMENDING THE FCC FOR TECHNICAL ELIMINATION OF THE FAIRNESS DOCTRINE BUT URGING VIGILANCE AND PASSAGE OF THE BROADCASTER FREEDOM ACT

- WHEREAS** the FCC has removed the so-called “fairness doctrine” from the Code of Federal Regulations, noting that its continued presence in that code even after the FCC abandoned the rule, was a technical oversight; and
- WHEREAS** the “fairness doctrine” was a harmful FCC doctrine that stifled free speech rights of broadcasters and gave the FCC improper control over the content decisions of broadcasting stations, but the Congress as a whole has been reluctant to pass the Broadcaster Freedom Act which would permanently deprive the FCC of jurisdiction to ever impose the “fairness doctrine” in the future; and
- WHEREAS** there is also a risk that the principles of the “fairness doctrine” may find their way, simply by another name, into other rules of the FCC, including such things as “localism” mandates that could impact the freedom of broadcasters; and
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby commends the FCC for removing the “fairness doctrine”, as a technical matter, from the Code of Federal Regulations, but urges vigilance among broadcasters and within the FCC to insure that the principles of that doctrine do not find their way into other rules, and further calling on Congress to pass the Broadcaster Freedom Act to prevent the “fairness doctrine” from ever being imposed in the future.