



Resolution

Supporting the Freedom to Broadcast

- WHEREAS** the Federal Communications Commission previously imposed an ill-conceived regulation on broadcast content called the “Fairness Doctrine” whereby broadcasters, as the risk of serious sanction, including loss of licensure, were required to provide ample opportunities for contrasting opinions on controversial topics; and
- WHEREAS** the previous imposition of this policy proved disastrous, and has been uniformly condemned by broadcasters as having a chilling affect on freedom of speech and free exercise of religion, and which had actually reduced the marketplace of ideas in electronic media rather than expanding it; and
- WHEREAS** he FCC, after recognizing these critical flaws, disbanded the “Fairness Doctrine” in the 1980s. As a result, there has been a healthy proliferation of “talk” programs, including Christian talk radio; and
- WHEREAS** there have been repeated statements by leaders in Congress urging the control over otherwise permissible broadcast content through the reinstatement of the “Fairness Doctrine” by name, and through similar broadcast regulations on content; and
- WHEREAS** a bill entitled the “Broadcaster Freedom Act” has been introduced in the House of Representatives, but which has not be permitted to reach a vote on the floor of the House; that bill would permanently deprive the FCC of jurisdiction from ever imposing the “Fairness Doctrine” again; *Therefore be it*
- RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters strongly opposes any attempt, in any form, to reinstate the “Fairness Doctrine,” and further opposes any attempt by the FCC or Congress to regulate, restrict, or reduce the otherwise permissible content of Christian broadcasting, and pledges to vigorously oppose any such action; and we further support the “Broadcaster Freedom Act” and urge the House of Representatives to permit that bill to receive a vote on the House floor and to pass that bill, and urge the Senate to pass a comparable version of that bill, and urge the President of the United States to sign it into law.