



# Resolution

## COMMENDING THE SUPREME COURT AND URGING CONGRESS ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

### WHEREAS

NRB, since the time of its founding, has devoted itself to protecting the three freedoms of religious liberty, free speech, and freedom of the press, whether embodied in the First Amendment or in laws passed by Congress or in regulations promulgated by the Federal Communications Commission, and particularly as to those freedoms that relate to, and undergird, the mission Christian broadcasters and communicators to freely and fully proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and the work of the Church Universal to effectively and faithfully live out the Christian faith in obedience to the Word of God and as a witness to the watching world.

### WHEREAS

NRB, to that end, through its Office of General Counsel, drafted and filed an Amicus Curiae (“friend of the Court”) brief with the United States Supreme Court in the cases of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, and *Conestoga Wood Specialties Corp. v. Burwell*, in support of the rights of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (“RFRA”) to be free, as for-profit companies, from the HHS regulatory mandate under the Affordable Health Care Act that would have imposed a substantial burden on their faith and their Biblical beliefs by mandating that they provide insurance to their employees that includes coverage for abortion-inducing drugs.

### WHEREAS

The Supreme Court, on June 30, 2014, ruled in favor of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga, holding that the HHS regulations imposed a substantial burden on the religious freedoms of those faith-based companies, stating, with regard to the large fines that those companies would otherwise have to pay as a penalty for their faith: “If these consequences do not amount to a substantial burden, it is hard to see what would.” The Court also held that for-profit, faith-based businesses have protection under RFRA, ruling: “The plain terms of RFRA make it perfectly clear that Congress did not discriminate ... against men and women who wish to run their businesses as for-profit corporations in the manner required by their religious beliefs.” However, some members of Congress, dissatisfied with the Court’s decision, have vowed to amend RFRA in a way that would minimize religious freedom and that would violate the bi-partisan intent behind the 1993 RFRA law and the 2000 additions to that law.

### WHEREAS

The Supreme Court also decided, on May 5, 2014, the case of *Town of Greece, New York v. Galloway* where it held that it is not a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment for municipalities to invite clergy, many of whom are Christians, to offer up prayers in the name of Jesus Christ at the beginning of official government meetings.

### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that NRB commends the Supreme Court for its wisdom, adherence to law, and protection of religious freedom in deciding the Hobby Lobby and Conestoga cases, and in deciding the Town of Greece case, and NRB further urges Congress not to amend, modify, or tamper with the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act or the expansion of RFRA enacted in the year 2000.

Approved by the Board of Directors February 23, 2015