



Resolution

PROTECTING THE AUTONOMY AND VITALITY OF NON-PROFIT MINISTRIES

WHEREAS

National Religious Broadcasters has promoted, in its dealings with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), a rule change whereby non-commercial stations could use up to one-percent of their annual air-time to promote and to raise funds for third-party non-profit, 501 (c)(3) groups without having to attempt, first, waivers from the FCC, which have become substantially unobtainable; further, that the FCC has, as a result, commenced a Notice of Proposed Rule-Making process wherein it proposed the adoption of a rule change patterned after the NRB's proposal, and NRB has filed its Comment and Reply in that proceeding, urging the FCC to adopt the substance of the NRB proposal;

WHEREAS

Senator Charles Grassley had appointed the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) to form an advisory commission made up of representatives of the religious and non-profit community to consider issues and potential changes to IRS rules that would impact religious non-profit organizations, and that the said commission has rendered its report on some of those issues; further, that the United States Supreme Court has ruled that, under the First Amendment, non-profit religious organizations and churches possess a constitutional right of autonomy in their essential functions and operations, and our Founding Fathers envisioned that churches and religious groups should be able to operate free of entangling, or oppressive oversight from the government;

WHEREAS

suggestions have been made by Members of Congress and by Executive Branch officials, that the charitable deduction be minimized or eliminated, and NRB believes that reducing or eliminating the charitable deduction would have a devastating effect on non-profit religious organizations and would destroy some ministries and would negatively impact the good work of other ones that provide free services and great public benefits to their communities and to the nation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the National Religious Broadcasters hereby urge the FCC to adopt the substance of the NRB proposal regarding broadcasters' ability to use air-time to perform fundraising for third party non-profit organizations, and urge Congress not to make any changes to IRS rules that would negatively impact religious non-profit organizations, or which would create entangling, or oppressive oversight from the government, or that would impair the constitutional autonomy of religious organizations or churches; and, it further urges Congress not to enact and urges the President of the United States not to propose, the reduction or elimination of the charitable deduction.