

February 15, 2016



The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Office of the Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

As President and CEO of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), I write to thank you for swiftly and decisively announcing your intention for the American people to make their voice heard in November before the Senate confirms a replacement for the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Justice Scalia was a man of honor and unwavering resolve in his commitment to support and defend the United States Constitution. While other voices desire to bend the words of our nation's founding charter to positions and policies they favor, Justice Scalia adamantly sought to maintain its framework, and, therefore, the integrity of the American Republic. Nowhere was Justice Scalia's dedication more seen than in his passionate dissent to last year's shameful majority ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. He said, "This practice of constitutional revision by an unelected committee of nine, always accompanied (as it is today) by extravagant praise of liberty, robs the People of the most important liberty they asserted in the Declaration of Independence and won in the Revolution of 1776: the freedom to govern themselves."

The Constitution that Justice Scalia fought for decades to uphold provides the President the power to nominate judges and the Senate the power of advice and consent. This is a key principle in the separation of powers between the branches of our nation's government. Unfortunately, America's current President has shown little restraint in asserting authority in areas properly belonging to other federal branches, the states, or the people themselves. I urge you to do all that you can to prevent the President from attempting to work around the will of the Legislative Branch in this matter.

The American people began to vote for change in 2014 by giving a new party control of the chamber, and the people will have a chance to speak again in the months ahead essentially on the fate of all three branches of government. Again, I thank you for declaring that the people should have their opportunity to speak. I have little doubt that the liberal elites in this nation will apply pressure on you and your colleagues, but know that I and many others stand with you in this wise decision. Thank you for your consideration and your leadership of the U.S. Senate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jerry Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerry A. Johnson, Ph.D.
President & CEO

National

Religious

Broadcasters

9510 Technology Drive

Manassas, Virginia 20110

Phone: 703-330-7000

Fax: 703-330-7100

Capitol Hill Office:

603 Second Street, NE

Washington, DC 20002

Phone: 202-543-0073

Fax: 202-543-2649

www.nrb.org

info@nrb.org

Christian

Communicators

Impacting

the World