



Resolution

To Seek Relief for Internet Radio Broadcasters and Webcasters

- WHEREAS** the United States Congress passed in 1998 a complex revision to U.S. Copyright laws, “The Digital Millennium Copyright Act” (the “DMCA”) that created new rights for the recording industry to limit broadcasters from using the Internet to transmit (“stream”) their programming and message and to extract payment from broadcasters for use of the Internet; and
- WHEREAS** as a result of the DMCA, the public has been blocked from hearing radio and Internet programming and information it desires over a critically important and convenient medium, and broadcasters have, as a practical matter, been unable to provide the public with the convenient access to programming and information it seeks; and
- WHEREAS** the restrictions and conditions on Internet streaming put in place by the DMCA are unjustified and provide no meaningful benefit to the recording industry, but interfere with broadcasters’ ability to use the Internet to reach their listeners; and
- WHEREAS** the fee setting process established in the DMCA was wasteful and burdensome for all parties and resulted in prohibitively high fees for Internet streaming that persists to this day, keeping broadcasters and webcasters from using the Internet, and may incorrectly be seen as precedent, preventing establishment of reasonable fees;
- WHEREAS** the Honorable James Sensenbrenner, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and the Honorable Lamar Smith, Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property, led a successful legislative initiative resulting in the simplification of the rate-setting procedure of the DMCA for Internet broadcast streaming and webcasting, “The Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act of 2004” (H.R. 1417) for which Representatives Sensenbrenner and Smith are to be greatly commended; and
- WHEREAS** H.R. 1417, though an important start, did not address the substantive elements of the DMCA that are at the root of the problems for broadcasters and webcasters wishing to use the Internet; and
- WHEREAS** legislative reform of the unreasonable fees and burdensome, unjustified conditions and limitations of the DMCA is essential if broadcasters and webcasters are to be able to provide the public with the Internet programming it seeks; and
- WHEREAS** the Recording Industry Association of America (the “RIAA”), an association to which many members of the Christian recording community also belong, is the chief adversary against reasonable reforms to the DMCA and as such is spending enormous resources to lobby against reform; and

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WHEREAS

the religious radio broadcasting community, a strong advocate of Internet broadcasting from the medium's beginning because of its vast potential for the spread of the Gospel, will continue to be hindered from using the Internet to its full evangelical potential unless relief from excessive royalties and unreasonable conditions and limitations is achieved: *Therefore, be it*

RESOLVED

by the National Religious Broadcasters that on behalf of the community of religious radio broadcasters, in order to secure their future in Internet broadcasting, we will apply our combined efforts to lobby Congress, to seek cooperation from music industry representatives and to rally grassroots support in order to help reform the unnecessary and counterproductive regulations embodied in the DMCA, and seek to resolve issues which has placed radio broadcasters and record labels at odds, in order to attain the full realization of Internet broadcasting of the Gospel message in music.



Resolution

Fostering First Amendment Freedoms

- WHEREAS** Scripture requires us to teach the full counsel of God, without any additions or deletions; and
- WHEREAS** the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution begins with “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press;” and
- WHEREAS** “hate crime” legislation attaches additional criminal penalties to the accuseds’ thoughts at the time of the crime and to the speech they used to voice their beliefs; and
- WHEREAS** alarming events in Australia, Canada, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States have challenged the ability of Christians to proclaim the full counsel of God; and
- WHEREAS** “hate crime” legislation has the potential to censor Christian broadcasters from declaring the full counsel of God by defining the Scriptures as “hate speech”: *Therefore, be it*
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters redoubles its commitment to preaching the life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ and the freeing power of repentance and forgiveness for sinners; *and be it further*
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters will be vigilant in defending its First Amendment right to publicly teach historical Christian doctrine in the United States and will oppose any version of “hate crime” legislation that might be interpreted as antithetical to such teaching; *and be it further*
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters will look for opportunities to encourage Christian broadcasters in other nations to foster an environment in which preaching the Gospel can flourish.



Resolution

Free Speech on the Airwaves

- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters exists primarily to secure and maintain freedom of access to the electronic media for the presentation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and for the proclamation of the biblical point of view on world events; and
- WHEREAS** Christian broadcasters have enjoyed freedom of access to the media in the USA and increasing access around the world; and
- WHEREAS** since the so-called “Fairness Doctrine” was repealed by the FCC in 1987, there has been a healthy democratic increase in expression of all views on the broadcast media with unprecedented participation by American citizens; and
- WHEREAS** there are more than 10,000 radio and television stations in the United States resulting in more than adequate presentation of all responsible views; and
- WHEREAS** the “Fairness Doctrine” had a chilling and stifling effect on broadcasters everywhere during its nearly 40 years of existence; and
- WHEREAS** there have been many attempts to reinstate the “Fairness Doctrine,” even during the current 109th Congress: *Therefore, be it*
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters goes on record as strongly opposing any attempt to reinstate or make the Fairness Doctrine the law of the land and pledges to vigorously oppose any such action.



Resolution

Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem

- WHEREAS** Psalm 122:6-7 tells us to “*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels;’*” and
- WHEREAS** Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s recent stroke has heightened the importance of the Israeli elections for a new prime minister; and
- WHEREAS** the Palestinian people have elected the Hamas party, an organization officially labeled a “terrorist organization,” and given the Hamas party a majority of seats in the Palestinian legislature: *Therefore, be it*
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters expresses its support for the state of Israel, the Jewish people, and all peace-loving people of the Holy Land, especially during this time of governmental transition; *and be it further*
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters vows to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.



Resolution

Respecting the Rule of Law

- WHEREAS** the United States Constitution specifies that judges shall be bound by “The Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof, and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, [as] the supreme Law of the Land;” and
- WHEREAS** over the last several decades activist judges have come to read into the Constitution rights that are not directly stated and remove others that are; and
- WHEREAS** freedom of speech for Christian Broadcasters to proclaim the Gospel is dependent on judges properly interpreting the Constitution particularly the first amendment; and
- WHEREAS** the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals determined that “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional; and
- WHEREAS** the U.S. Federal Courts are increasingly becoming hostile to the religious expression: *Therefore, be it*
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters encourages all Presidents of the United States, present and future, to continue to nominate judges to the federal bench who espouse judicial restraint and who will hold to the rule of law rather than the rule of men; *and be it further*
- RESOLVED** that National Religious Broadcasters encourages the United States Senate to confirm judges who will abstain from exercising judicial activism.