



Resolution

Urging the FCC and Congress to be Diligent in Enforcing Indecency Standards

WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission has been, under the leadership of Chairman Kevin Martin, more aggressively enforcing FCC standards on broadcast indecency during those hours when children will be most likely to be listening or watching broadcast programming; and

WHEREAS lawsuits have been filed to challenge the FCC's actions on specific indecency complaints; and the United States Supreme Court has accepted this issue for review in a pending case from the adverse ruling of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals; and National Religious Broadcasters has filed its own Amicus Curiae ("friend of the court") brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in that case, urging the Court to affirm the actions of the FCC in enforcing indecency standards;

RESOLVED that the National Religious Broadcasters applauds the FCC, under the chairmanship of Commissioner Kevin Martin, for its vigorous enforcement of indecency standards, and its decision to appeal the adverse ruling of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, but also urges the FCC to continue to process, review and, if appropriate, levy fines and sanctions for violations of indecency standards notwithstanding the pending legal challenges, and urges Congress to take the necessary steps to author legislation protecting children from indecent broadcast content.



Resolution

Supporting the Access of Christian Communicators to the Internet

- WHEREAS** the Federal Communications Commission has recently issued a ruling regarding the issue popularly referred to as “net neutrality,” wherein it determined that Internet service providers cannot arbitrarily or discriminatorily impede, block, slow-down, or interfere with the access of users to the Internet; and
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters has, as its mission, the insuring of the fullest access of Christian broadcasters and communicators to the various avenues of electronic communications; and
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters has a well-founded concern that access by Christian broadcasters and communicators to the Internet may be limited or even denied if reasonable regulations protecting access to the Internet are not established;
- RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters urge the FCC, and Congress, to take steps to insure that Christian broadcasters and communicators have full, fair, and equal access to the Internet.



Resolution

Opposing the “Fairness Doctrine” in All of Its Forms

- WHEREAS** the Federal Communications Commission previously imposed an ill-conceived regulation on broadcast content called the “Fairness Doctrine” whereby broadcasters, at 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 effect 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** the 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 also through similar regulations purporting to give the federal government control over broadcast content; and
- WHEREAS** a bill entitled the “Broadcaster Freedom Act” had been introduced in the last session of the House of Representatives, but it was not permitted to reach a vote on the floor of the House; that bill would wisely have permanently deprived the FCC of jurisdiction from ever imposing the “Fairness Doctrine” again;
- 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 urge the Congress to pass legislation to permanently prevent the reinstatement of the “Fairness Doctrine,” and we urge the President of the United States to sign it into law.



Resolution

Honoring the Nation of Israel

- WHEREAS** last year was the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the creation of the modern State of Israel; and Israel's history, and its current existence, is evidence of the providential hand of God and the fulfillment of the promises of God set forth in the Bible; and
- WHEREAS** Scripture also tells us (Psalm 122:6-7) 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** Israel continues to be subjected to hostile threats, overt attacks, and acts of terrorism perpetrated by its enemies;
- RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters expresses its support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people, and all peace-loving people of the Holy Land; and *be it further*
- RESOLVED** that the members of the National Religious Broadcasters agree to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for God's protection over all of Israel, and for all people of good will who seek peace in the Holy Land and for the spiritual well-being of the Jewish people.
in authority.



Resolution

Opposing the Current “Localism” Proposal of the FCC

- WHEREAS** the Federal Communications Commission previously proposed, in a notice of proposed rule-making proceeding entitled “In the Matter of Broadcast Localism,” the mandating of various new obligations for all broadcast licensees, purportedly for the purpose of better serving the “local” media and news coverage needs of local communities; and
- WHEREAS** those newly proposed obligations included the creation of a “board of community advisors” for each broadcast station and the requirement for each station to meet regularly with such board of community advisors selected from “all segments of the community,” and to be advised by such board on recommended programming decisions; further requirements include mandated coverage of local issues, review of adequate “local” media coverage as a precondition of license renewal, and the requirement that each station be physically staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; and
- WHEREAS** National Religious Broadcasters has filed three separate objections with the FCC regarding such proposals on various grounds, including the fact that such “localism” proposals would substantially intrude upon the Free Exercise of Religion liberties of Christian broadcasters, and infringe Free Speech rights as well, and would unduly interfere with broadcasting freedoms regarding content, and would seriously impede and burden the operation of Christian broadcasters;
- RESOLVED** that the National Religious Broadcasters strongly opposes the “localism” initiative of the FCC in its current form, and urges the FCC to abandon the entirety of its pending “localism” proposal.



Resolution

Advising Caution Regarding Media Ownership Rules

WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission commenced a proceeding to investigate whether, and to what extent, rules regarding “media ownership” should be modified, addressing such things as media consolidation, and cross-ownership of broadcast stations and newspapers; and

WHEREAS Dr. Frank Wright, President and CEO of the National Religious Broadcasters, in a field hearing conducted in October 2006 testified before the FCC in that media ownership hearing that: “While recognizing the difficulty the Commission faces in determining the appropriate level of media concentration and recognizing that this entails a balancing of interests, NRB strongly encourages the Commission to limit media ownership to the levels approved in the legislation passed by Congress and signed by the President on January 23, 2004;” and

WHEREAS since that field hearing of October 2006, numerous “progressive” and “liberal” think tanks and “media reform” groups have called upon the FCC and/or Congress to regulate media ownership not only to insure more positive local programming, or to insure better access of broadcasters to the channels of mass communication, but to effect a change in the viewpoints aired over the broadcast media, to-wit: to lessen the amount of “conservative” broadcast talk, particularly on radio, much of which is Christian content, and to increase, by mandating the restructuring of media ownership, the amount of “progressive” or “liberal” broadcast viewpoints in broadcast content;

RESOLVED that while the National Religious Broadcasters agree that certain reasonable media ownership regulations are necessary to insure access to the channels of broadcasting, and to help insure local programming control, and to improve the quality of programming, it strongly opposes any regulations by the Congress or the FCC regarding media ownership which are intended or designed to impact the variety, quantity or nature of the viewpoints or the content that is aired over the broadcast media.



Resolution

Calling Christian Broadcasters To Pray For Our President, the Cabinet And All Those Who Will Lead Us In Government In This Year 2009

- WHEREAS** as a body of believers we recognize and acknowledge the authority of Scripture; and
- WHEREAS** we believe the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ transcends cultural and societal ills; and
- WHEREAS** we are urged by God as recorded in 1st Timothy 2:1 that “entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior;”
- RESOLVED** as National Religious Broadcasters we pledge our prayers for President Barack Obama and for all those who, under God, serve in authority.

Psalm 37:23-24: “If the Lord delights in a man’s way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.”