



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.