



Resolution

“Must-Carry” Status For Low-Power Class A Television Stations

- WHEREAS** The Congress of the United States in concert with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently created a new category of TV stations entitled “Class A,” and
- WHEREAS** These Class A licenses are only available to Low-Power (LPTV) broadcasters who produce a significant amount of local programming for their underserved audiences, and
- WHEREAS** LPTV stations often function as a community’s only local TV outlet for specialized Christian and family-oriented programming for the unserved and underserved audiences, and
- WHEREAS** More than 80% of all households in the United States receive their television programming through cable or other multi-video broadcast services (MVBS) and all full power, full service TV stations have and enjoy must-carry rights on these MVBS systems, and
- WHEREAS** Some Class A broadcasters are paying hundreds of thousands of dollars per year for cable access because they do not have must-carry rights, creating huge financial strain and burden on their broadcast service, and
- WHEREAS** The Cable Act of 1992 was written more than seven (7) years before the enactment of the Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1999, which authorized the establishment of the new, permanent “Class A” service. Therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** That the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), at its 58th Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas, urges the Congress and the President of the United States to reform the 1992 Cable Act to provide Class A television broadcasters with the same “must-carry” opportunities available to other full-service TV stations in order to foster the financial viability of these valuable local TV stations, and ensure that their underserved audiences will have full access to the local programs, Christian programs, and other family-based programming provided by these Class A television stations.