

National
Religious
Broadcasters

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*Christian
Communicators
Impacting
the World*



June 17, 2015

Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, GN Docket No. 12-268*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 17, 2015, Dr. Jerry A. Johnson, President & CEO of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), sent the attached letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler regarding the *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions* (GN Docket No. 12-268) proceeding.

Specifically, Dr. Johnson emphasized the importance of religious television broadcasters to local communities and drew Chairman Wheeler's attention to a *Resolution* approved earlier this year by the NRB Board of Directors calling for religious broadcasters not to be auctioned off the air.

Pursuant to Section 1.1200, et seq., of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Aaron Mercer

Aaron Mercer
Vice President of Government Relations
National Religious Broadcasters

cc: Maria Kirby

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The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, GN Docket No. 12-268*

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

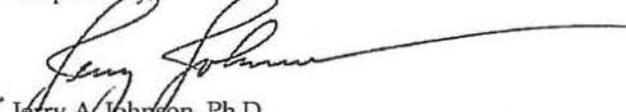
National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) has commented on various occasions in the *Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions* (GN Docket No. 12-268) proceeding, including earlier this year with specific suggestions for treatment of low power television (LPTV) stations, which will be particularly at risk in this auction.

The NRB Board of Directors, which consists of approximately a hundred leaders elected by the broader NRB membership, unanimously approved a *Resolution* this year calling for religious broadcasters not to be auctioned off the air. I have enclosed the full *Resolution* for your consideration.

Religious television stations provide an important service to local communities with their religious and family-oriented viewing choices. NRB urges the Commission to adopt incentive auction and repacking procedures that uphold the continued viability of these ministries.

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership of the Federal Communications Commission.

Respectfully,


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

Enclosure



Resolution

CALLING ON THE FCC NOT TO AUCTION RELIGIOUS TV OFF THE AIR

- WHEREAS** Religious television stations providing valuable content and services for their local communities have blossomed in recent decades, and those broadcasters require access to the airwaves to continue their missions.
- WHEREAS** NRB's many members include a significant number of full power, Class A, and low power television broadcasters (LPTV) that produce and/or telecast religious programming. The public service provided by these broadcasters is uniquely local, often showcasing programming with local churches or non-profits, and providing wholesome, family-oriented viewing choices.
- WHEREAS** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is working to implement an auction of television broadcast spectrum in order to make more spectrum available for wireless use. The FCC's statements to date leave open concerns for all NRB TV ministries regarding their place on the airwaves after this auction, and LPTV is in a particularly precarious position.
- WHEREAS** NRB filed public comments with FCC in January 2013 recommending that in the spectrum auction proceeding the interests of the viewing public be kept paramount; that the FCC exercise the highest degree of transparency in the planned operation of the auction and in the standards it will employ in deciding the fate of broadcast stations; suggestions for a method to ensure equitable reimbursement for stations forced to relocate; and that the valuable localism provided by LPTV be protected in accord with the "No Alter" clause inserted by Congress in the auction's authorizing legislation. In addition, NRB filed a follow-up comment in May 2014 again emphasizing LPTV's critical role and that the FCC should do all in its power not to undermine LPTV through the spectrum auction.
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED** that NRB hereby calls on the FCC to take care not to auction any religious broadcaster off the air; rather, the FCC should keep the interests of the viewing public paramount in the auction proceeding and not undermine programming choices for Americans, specifically the religious and family programming that NRB TV Members provide free of charge to local communities.

Approved by the Board of Directors February 23, 2015