

May 22, 2013

Ex Parte

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



Re: *Noncommercial Educational Station Fundraising for Third-Party Non-Profit Organizations, MB Docket No. 12-106*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 22, 2013, Craig Parshall and Aaron Mercer of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) met with Dave Grimaldi, Chief of Staff for Acting Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn, regarding the Noncommercial Educational Station Fundraising for Third-Party Non-Profit Organizations proceeding (MB Docket No. 12-106).

Specifically, NRB was interested in the current status of the proceeding following the conclusion of the comment and reply-comment periods in the summer of 2012. NRB re-affirmed its support for the concept at the heart of this proceeding that on-air fundraising by NCE stations on behalf of non-profit groups will serve a vital public interest not only by facilitation of the charitable impulses of listeners and viewers, but also by aiding non-profit groups in meeting critical community needs.

NRB re-iterated its recommendation, in accordance with the *INC Report* issued by the related FCC working group, that any NCE station that does not receive Corporation for Public Broadcasting ("CPB") grants may qualify to participate in a new rule permitting on-air fundraising for third-party non-profit organizations up to 1% of the station's annual on-air time. NRB highlighted its previous suggestion that the third-party non-profit groups helped by an NCE station under this new rule be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as 501 (c) (3) organizations, a factor that would solidify confidence that such fundraising efforts on-air would indeed be serving the public interest.

Regarding what NCE stations may currently do in this area, they are prohibited from fundraising except for themselves unless they are provided a waiver by the Commission. NRB has stated that the

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current practice of the Commission issuing waivers for mass catastrophes or exceptional incidents should be retained in addition to the proposed new rule.

NRB referenced its public comments and reply-comments filed with the Commission on July 23, 2012 and August 21, 2012 respectively that discuss in detail these and other points of interest raised in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding.

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: Dave Grimaldi