

National
Religious
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Christian
Communicators
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November 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 November 22, 2013, Dr. Jerry A. Johnson, President & CEO of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), sent the attached letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler regarding the Noncommercial Educational Station Fundraising for Third-Party Non-Profit Organizations proceeding (MB Docket No. 12-106).

Specifically, 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 also urged that the Chairman consider the finalization of this rulemaking at the FCC's December Open Meeting.

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: Deborah Ridley



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The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
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 Chairman Wheeler:

As you assume your new post, I trust that you are getting off to a great start. Here's an opportunity for you to get an early "win."

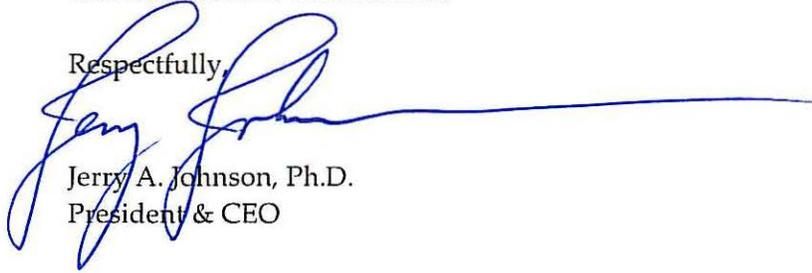
Last year the Federal Communications Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding "Noncommercial Educational Station Fundraising for Third-Party Non-Profit Organizations" (MB Docket No. 12-106). On behalf of the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB), I ask you to complete the rulemaking process in this worthwhile effort. I respectfully suggest that such action to aid the charitable nature of many Americans would be particularly appropriate and significant at the FCC's Open Meeting in December, a time of year when many Americans are particularly mindful of giving opportunities and community needs.

As you know, currently NCE stations are prohibited from on-air fundraising for other non-profits unless they are provided a waiver by the Commission. NRB believes the current practice of the Commission issuing waivers for mass catastrophes or exceptional incidents should be retained, but that this new proposed rule also be implemented as it will be a "win-win" in the public interest. Indeed, NRB is firmly convinced, as we stated in our Comments and Reply Comments filed in 2012, that the concept at the heart of this proceeding and as clarified in our filings will serve the public interest in two ways. It will facilitate the charitable impulse of listeners and viewers, and at the same time, aid non-profit groups in meeting critical societal needs through partnerships with broadcasting stations.

While this NPRM cites NRB as an initiating force behind this concept, its endorsement by the FCC's *Information Needs of Communities Report* and the vital leadership of the FCC Office of the Chairman has been instrumental in advancing it to this stage. The FCC's work on this NPRM is much appreciated, and I believe the completion of this proceeding will provide religious broadcasters another powerful tool for serving vital community needs.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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