



News Conference, February 25, 2015

Comments of Dr. Randy Weiss –

As Chairman of the National Religious Broadcasters TV Committee, I'd like to commend the NRB Board and Membership for the clear and powerful resolution unanimously passed in support of the protection for America's LPTV and Translator television stations.

We strongly oppose any actions that will damage religious TV broadcasters. The FCC should re-evaluate their approach to the so-called Voluntary Incentive Auction. Personally, it seems clear to me that just like there is nothing "neutral" about "Net Neutrality," there is nothing "voluntary" about the Voluntary Incentive Auction for the many religious LPTV stations that will be shut down without compensation if the FCC proceeds as planned.

The NRB is watching.

Religious broadcasters are concerned that the FCC'S actions will silence many voices for faith. This must not happen.

Comments of Louis Libin -

Thank you. My name is Louis Libin, Executive Director of the Advanced Television Broadcasting Alliance. Our membership is comprised of hundreds of low-power television broadcasters, and translators, and allied industry organizations and companies. Yesterday, here at the NRB, we heard a presentation from the FCC Spectrum Auction Incentive Committee; we participated in the FCC's LPTV Learn Webinar, and we met with multiple Low Power TV Station owners, and programmers that air programming on LPTV stations. It has become evident that there is no plan to protect LPTV stations in the Spectrum auction process and the reach to viewers of religious programming stands to be drastically impacted.

There are thousands of LPTV and Translators stations and most transmit religious and family programming. We believe that many of these stations; religious stations and stations that carry religious programming will be forced off the air by the FCC because of the spectrum auction and subsequent repacking. The true numbers are just not known because the FCC holds LPTV in very low regard, and has not planned any LPTV channel impact studies to save LPTV. We believe that Congress did not intend for this consequence, but current interpretations of their mandate by the FCC will require a new directive from congress to protect LPTV.

We greatly applaud the NRB membership for passing this powerful resolution that in no uncertain terms calls on the FCC not to take ANY religious broadcaster off the air. Unfortunately, the spectrum act does not clearly mandate the protection of LPTV and TV translator stations in the repacking process, and the FCC has declined to extend discretionary protection. We are asking the broadcasters, program producers and the public at large to take up this cause along with the NRB to protect media access by asking for protection for LPTV stations.