

David K. Rehr
President and CEO



February 24, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the members of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), I am writing to express our gratitude to you for the February 18, 2009, White House statement reiterating your view that the Fairness Doctrine should not be reinstated. The nation's broadcasters appreciate your support of fundamental First Amendment principles and agree with last week's statement by Ben LaBolt.

At a time when the challenges that face our country require vigorous debate and discussion, our nation's TV and radio broadcasters provide a rich diversity of viewpoints from all sides of the political spectrum. Any attempts to reimpose the Fairness Doctrine would harm, not help, this diversity by discouraging a robust exchange of ideas and opinions. In addition, given that today's media environment includes cable and satellite TV channels, satellite radio, Web sites, blogs, podcasts and other platforms, the public has more avenues than ever to both express opinions and obtain a diversity of viewpoints.

Opposition to the reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine is an important issue to America's broadcasters. We applaud you and those who join you in opposing government censorship of our airways. We stand ready to work with you to defend a fundamental freedom -- the freedom of speech.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DK. Rehr". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David K. Rehr

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