



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

GROVER G. NORQUIST

PRESIDENT

October 17, 2007

All Members of the House of Representatives

Dear Congressman,

No right is as sacred or important as the right to free speech. The so-called Fairness Doctrine is a direct threat to that right, which is why I was pleased to see you vote to block enforcement of it for one year earlier this year. But the attack on free speech could return in the future unless the regulation is wiped from the books once and for all. So I am writing today to urge you to stand up and sign the discharge petition being circulated by Congressman Mike Pence and Congressman Greg Walden on H.R. 2905, the Broadcaster Freedom Act, to protect free speech on our nation's airwaves.

The Broadcaster Freedom Act will strip the Fairness Doctrine from the books once and for all, thus ensuring the free flow of ideas and the freedom to express opinions without threat of government imposing fines and regulating content.

When the Fairness Doctrine was repealed in 1987, the debate is was supposed foster but never did cause actually started. While some may not like what is said on talk radio, that is a far cry from moving to silence this popular format. Unfortunately, there has been a movement of late to return to the days when government, through the FCC, played referee on content. This is a plainly partisan maneuver and an assault on free speech that should not be allowed to stand. The First Amendment does not apply only to those with whom you agree.

Eliminating the Fairness Doctrine will allow the market to manage content, not government, as it should be.

I urge you, as someone who voted in favor of banning the Fairness Doctrine for one year, to stand once again for free speech and make that ban permanent. History will thank you.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President,
Americans for Tax Reform