

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

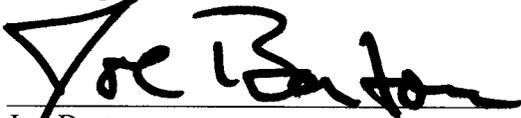
We take the opportunity to write to you today regarding one of our nation's most cherished rights – free speech.

In order to protect this pillar of our democracy, we have introduced H.R. 2905, the Broadcaster Freedom Act, which would prohibit the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from prescribing rules, regulations, or policies that will reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. We are pleased that 135 of our colleagues have joined us as cosponsors of this important measure.

As you know, in 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court concluded that the Fairness Doctrine inescapably dampens the vigor and limits the variety of public debate in *Miami Herald Publishing Company vs. Torino*. Twenty-three years ago, in *FCC vs. League of Women Voters*, the Court went further and concluded the Fairness Doctrine was limiting the breadth of public debate. Knowing of the FCC's commitment to fostering robust public debate on America's over-the-air broadcasts, we respectfully request that you provide us your thoughts on the appropriateness of the Fairness Doctrine in today's broadcast environment.

Considering the significance associated with protecting free speech, we request that you reply to us by July 23, 2007. We look forward to your response and continuing to work with you to ensure that our country's public airwaves remain free and uninhibited by regulation that could squelch open public debate.

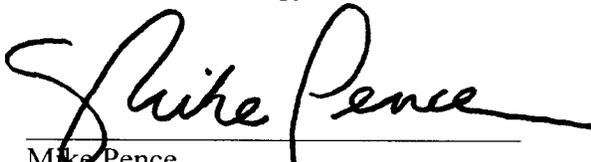
Best regards,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Fred Upton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and
the Internet



Mike Pence
Member of Congress



Greg Walden
Member of Congress