The *South Bend Tribune* has a column by DePauw University professor Jeffrey McCall today on Congressman Pence's Broadcaster Freedom Act:

The Fairness Doctrine mandated that broadcasters provide balanced coverage of controversial issues. To avoid federal second-guessing and expensive lawsuits, most broadcasters chose to say nothing. In effect, while trying to mandate "fairness," the government instead stifled broadcast discussion.

Fortunately, the Federal Communications Commission discarded the Fairness Doctrine in 1987. Broadcasting and democracy have done just fine ever since, with nearly 2,000 radio stations now providing the conversation of democracy in talk formats, compared to about 200 back then.

Indiana Congressman Mike Pence, R-6th District, is working to pass the Broadcaster Freedom Act, a bill that would ensure the Fairness Doctrine never returns. His efforts have been stalled, however, by the Democratic leadership of the House. Pence is now trying to gather enough signatures on a discharge petition, which would force an up or down vote on the Broadcaster Freedom Act this fall.