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NABA GRATIFIED BY BROAD OTA SUPPORT AT WRC-15

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November 4, 2015 / GENEVA, Switzerland - As the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) opens its World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) in Geneva this week, the North American Broadcasters Association is gratified by the broad, multi-country appreciation of the ongoing importance of free over-the-air broadcasting. At the start of the conference, some 34 nations spanning all ITU regions and all continents, have voiced support for maintaining the present UHF spectrum allocation for free-to-air television broadcast. This is in spite of attempts by mobile broadband interests who are seeking to reallocate the spectrum for paid services. A large and diverse group of countries continue to recognize the importance of broadcasting as an instrument of freedom of expression and the most effective and efficient means of using spectrum to deliver educational and emergency information to an entire population.

“We look forward to continuing to work with our partners in South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, the Arab States, Europe, and the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications to ensure that free-to-air television continues to provide public service and creative content to all. Despite some pre-emptive efforts from the wireless industry to spin the facts, only a handful of countries actually support reallocation. In contrast, and despite relentless pressure from the wireless industry to reallocate ever-increasing amounts of spectrum for paid services, a much larger group of nations is opposed to such reallocation. This is in recognition of the importance of over-the-air television including its spectrum efficiency, its prospects of continued technological advancement, and its delivery of new services.”

-Michael McEwen, Director-General, NABA

NABA remains firmly committed to addressing the preservation of the terrestrial and satellite broadcasting spectrum and protection of it from interference.

About NABA:

NABA is a non-profit association of the most influential broadcasting organizations throughout North America committed to advancing the interests of broadcasters at home and internationally. Network broadcasters, both public and private, in the United States, Mexico, and Canada, work together to provide a common voice for the North American broadcast community. As a member of the World Broadcasting Unions (WBU), NABA creates the opportunity for North American broadcasters to share information, identify common interests, and reach consensus on issues of an international nature. NABA provides representation for North American broadcasters in global forums on topics including journalism issues, protection of content, spectrum-related concerns, the territorial integrity of broadcasters' signals, and digital transmission issues. For further information about NABA, please visit www.nabanet.com.