

Calendar No. 12

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 34

To prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 6, 2009

Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOND, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

JANUARY 7, 2009

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

A BILL

To prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Broadcaster Freedom
5 Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. FAIRNESS DOCTRINE PROHIBITED.**

2 Title III of the Communications Act of 1934 is
3 amended by inserting after section 303 (47 U.S.C. 303)
4 the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 303A. LIMITATION ON GENERAL POWERS: FAIRNESS**
6 **DOCTRINE.**

7 “Notwithstanding section 303 or any other provision
8 of this Act or any other Act authorizing the Commission
9 to prescribe rules, regulations, policies, doctrines, stand-
10 ards, or other requirements, the Commission shall not
11 have the authority to prescribe any rule, regulation, policy,
12 doctrine, standard, or other requirement that has the pur-
13 pose or effect of reinstating or repromulgating (in whole
14 or in part) the requirement that broadcasters present op-
15 posing viewpoints on controversial issues of public impor-
16 tance, commonly referred to as the ‘Fairness Doctrine’,
17 as repealed in General Fairness Doctrine Obligations of
18 Broadcast Licensees, 50 Fed. Reg. 35418 (1985).”.

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