

**Remarks by Bob Pittman
Accepting The Media Institute's
Freedom of Speech Award
November 14, 2012**

- Many thanks to Senator Wicker for introducing me. He is a dear friend and it is nice to be able to spend some time with him again.
- Congratulations to John Riccitiello on receiving the much-deserved American Horizon Award. He truly is a visionary in the global interactive entertainment software marketplace.
- It is a pleasure to see Chairman Genachowski again, and it's been great to meet Commissioner Rosenworcel, whom I look forward to working with as well.
- Finally, I'd like to thank The Media Institute, under Patrick's leadership, for its tireless efforts to protect and promote the First Amendment.
- The group here tonight reflects the remarkable diversity of today's digital communications universe. We don't always agree on everything, but what ultimately unites us is more powerful than what sometimes divides us – our belief in the strength and the critical importance of the First Amendment.
- Every one of us gathered here tonight is committed to protecting the First Amendment, and our right as Americans to freedom of speech. In addition to what it means to us as individuals, freedom of speech is indispensable to our businesses, whether we are creating content and information, distributing it, or consuming it. Without freedom of speech, creativity withers and our experiences as a nation and as individuals contract.
- At every stage of my own professional journey, whether it be as a DJ in Mississippi, a radio program director, an early Internet pioneer at AOL, or now, as CEO of Clear Channel, I have gotten the most satisfaction from having the opportunity to broaden distribution of ideas, whether it's music, news and information, or other entertainment, across as many devices and platforms as possible, to enhance and enrich the lives of America's consumers.
- That's ultimately what radio's mission is. We serve the public interest, and at Clear Channel, we take this responsibility very seriously. This includes everything from supporting and promoting freedom of speech to providing immediate live coverage and important updates on emergencies impacting our communities. During the recent Hurricane Sandy, our stations kept their communities informed about the storm's progress and impact, and then, in the aftermath, turned their focus to relief efforts – exactly as they did when tornadoes

ripped through Joplin and Tuscaloosa a year ago, and just as they will do the next time disaster hits close to home. Informing and assisting the communities in which we live and work is as critical to us as the important overarching concepts in which we deeply believe, and which inform everything we do – like freedom of speech.

- I give you my commitment that we at Clear Channel will continue to serve the public interest – the communities in which we live, the listeners whom we inform, assist, and entertain. And as part of that service, we will continue to protect and promote freedom of speech – a right enshrined in our Constitution, one which every American citizen is entitled to exercise, and a right that leads us, as a society, to a healthy debate on all important issues. And there is no nation on earth that believes in, and supports, this right for all of us like the United States of America.
- Thank you.