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April 3, 2019

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex-Parte* Communication, MB Dockets No. 18-202 and 17-105

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 1, 2019, representatives of AT&T met with Martha Heller, Jonathan Mark, Kathy Berthot and Sarah Whitesell, all from the Media Bureau, to discuss the above captioned proceedings. AT&T was represented by Stacy Fuller, Jeanine Poltronieri, Cathy Carpino, and Glenis McKoy.

Consistent with the comments filed by AT&T, we expressed that there has been no evidence that the commercial limits in children's programming rules are being violated and there is little practical effectiveness in having all multichannel video programmer distributors ("MVPDs") collect the same certifications each quarter. Collecting, scanning uploading and sending files to the FCC for several hundred programmers for DIRECTV and U-Verse is extremely time consuming and burdensome. It takes AT&T approximately 40 hours each quarter to process these certifications.

AT&T advocates that programmer certifications of compliance be provided only in the event of a complaint. However, if that proposal is not accepted, MVPDs should file annually no earlier than 30 days after the close of calendar year or 45 days as requested by American Cable Association (ACA).<sup>1</sup> Granting 10 days at the close of a reporting period is unnecessarily burdensome and there is no reason to believe that granting an additional 20 days for this administrative task would undermine the system.

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<sup>1</sup> See Letter from Mary C. Lovejoy, ACA, to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC, MB Docket Nos. 17-105 & 18-202 (July 13, 2018); *Ex Parte* Communication of the American Cable Association; *Children's Television Programming*, MB Docket No. 18-202; *Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative*, MB Docket No. 17-105 (rel. March 8, 2019).

Finally, we asked the Commission to ensure that changes made to the cable rules be also made in the DBS rules, as they are identical. We look forward to continuing working with the Commission on modernizing the media rules for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sincerely,

Glenis McKoy

cc: Martha Heller  
Jonathan Mark  
Kathy Berthot  
Sarah Whitesell