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May 1, 2019

Honorable Ajith Pai, Chairman

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street SE

Washington, DC 20554

Re: Reply Comments to Media Bureau on Video Description Marketplace Improvements (DA 19-40)

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am writing to you in support of the comments filed by the American Council of the Blind (ACB)  on April 1. Video description is a transformative tool enjoyed by Americans who are sighted, visually impaired, as well as blind. I agree with ACB that the FCC’s report to inform Congress on the video description marketplace should:

* Recommend the expansion of video description to serve all Americans;
* Recommend expanding the required hours of described programming;
* Recommend that video described programming be passed through to consumers, regardless of the means of video delivery; and,
* Recommend the creation of a centralized guide listing for all video described programming.

As a performer who is blind I am a big advocate for audio description. I am an avid tv/movie watcher and I am much more likely to watch programing with audio description over one with no AD. Many of my sighted friends also speak to the value of description. Adding description shows the company cares about inclusion and I will pay for that consideration. I firmly believe that equal access is critical. I should not have to hunt for description and should not have to pay and fight to enjoy the same shows as my sighted peers. I am not just a person who happens to be blind. I am a person with the same interests as those who are not blind. I am a contributing person to society who also pays for the same services to enjoy media as my sighted friends. Why would I pay or watch if I can’t enjoy? I can take my business elsewhere. Why should my experience be limited? I would be happy to use a service and pay for more experiences where description is available. I have stopped paying for streaming services because of the lack of audio description on such services as Hulu and regular cable packages.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Taylor