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May 1, 2019

Honorable Ajit 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.

 I am a person who has no remaining eyesight due to a progressive degenerative disease of the eye. I’ve been totally blind for the past 30 or so years.

Audio description has been immensely beneficial to me. We have access to audio description for local theater productions, it makes all the difference in my ability to enjoy a live theater show. I’ve also used audio description to watch movies both in the theater and at home on TV. I would say that through my own personal experience that audio description is an absolute game changer. I believe that It’s a service that’s equivalent to using sign language to provide captioning for people who are deaf.

Your efforts that would provide the governing structure to authorize expanded use of audio description in visual media would be deeply appreciated. THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Allan Peterson