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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 would like to express my support for the comments on video description filed by the American Council of the Blind on April 1, 2019. I am a totally blind person and my spouse is also totally blind. We have five children and have had more than a dozen foreign exchange high school students. Video description, in movies, plays, television and other venues, has provided an opportunity for my wife and myself to more completely experience and involve my children and foreign exchange students in the full spectrum of American life. In essence, video description is an important tool in enabling persons with severe vision impairments to become more fully integrated into society.

Because of its almost universal and daily use in the United States, television is the most important venue in which video description must be made available to all persons with vision loss. It is for this reason that I wholeheartedly endorse the ACB position that the FCC report to Congress should include the following four recommendations:

* Expansion of video description to serve all Americans.
* Expanding the required hours of described programming.
* Video described programming be passed through to consumers, regardless of the means of video delivery.
* Creation of a centralized guide listing for all video described programming.

Implementation of these recommendations will dramatically enhance the availability and usability of video description for all Americans with vision impairments.

Sincerely

Jeff Thom