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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.

Video description is a service that touches all blind persons, young and old and provides us access to entertainment at the same time as sighted citizens. For example, Sunday, April 28, was the third episode in the eighth and final season of Game of Thrones. It would have been a real treat to discuss the episode with friends, co-workers, and the rest of the nation, because of the inclusion of video description. The FCC has the ability to extend video description and provide more opportunities for entertainment, education, and other leisure activities for blind persons to ensure that we have a level playing field to arts and entertainment as our non-disabled citizens. Please make the most of this opportunity to serve the public and grant the requests of the American Council of the Blind and support the expansion of video description.

Sincerely,

Patrick Sheehan