



OFFICE OF  
CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

JUN 15 1987

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FILE

MAIL BRANCH

JUN 15 1987

signed by  
mailed by

Alfred C. Sikes  
United States Department of Commerce  
The Assistant Secretary for Communications  
and Information  
Washington, DC 20230

Re: RM-5811 ✓

Dear Mr. Sikes:

I appreciate you taking the time to give me your thoughts on high definition television (HDTV) and the role the FCC might play in bringing this technology to the American public. I have taken the liberty of treating your letter as a comment to the Petition to Initiate an Inquiry (RM-5811) and have associated it with the other comments filed in response to the petition.

I agree that the prospects for HDTV are exciting, and viewers might prefer this mode of television to that which is now available. In evaluating various spectrum allocation options for accommodating HDTV, the Commission must, of course, consider the benefits of this use of spectrum with other possible uses. I eagerly anticipate the receipt of comments on the petition so that the Commission may begin its consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Patrick  
Chairman



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Assistant Secretary for Communications**  
**and Information**

Washington, D.C. 20230  
May 12, 1987

Honorable Dennis R. Patrick  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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RE: RM-5811

Dear Chairman Patrick:

Spurred by the demonstration of one of the developing high definition television (HDTV) systems earlier this year, several broadcasting concerns have requested that the Commission establish an inquiry on HDTV and other advanced video technologies. In light of the numerous questions and complex issues surrounding the HDTV issue, I recommend that the Commission grant the Petition and adopt a Notice of Inquiry on the introduction of advanced television technologies.

While HDTV presents numerous advantages over the present television system, the introduction of this technology may create complex problems. The increased clarity and sharpness of HDTV pictures and the improved aspect ratio will undoubtedly make such a system popular with consumers. It seems likely, however, that a significantly higher resolution transmission will require more bandwidth than currently assigned to local television broadcasters. In addition, serious questions are raised by the introduction of any system incompatible with NTSC technology.

It is essential that we facilitate broadcasting's capacity to remain abreast of technological developments. Terrestrial broadcasting is the heart of local video information and news. We must not knowingly hurt this medium. A comprehensive inquiry on advanced television technologies would enable the Commission to explore the technical issues raised by the introduction of these systems as well as the future role of local broadcasters in the provision of HDTV service.

Sincerely,

Alfred C. Sikes

cc: James H. Quello, Commissioner  
Mimi Weyforth Dawson, Commissioner  
Patricia Diaz Dennis, Commissioner  
William J. Tricarico, Secretary