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June 29, 1993

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JUN 29 1993

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

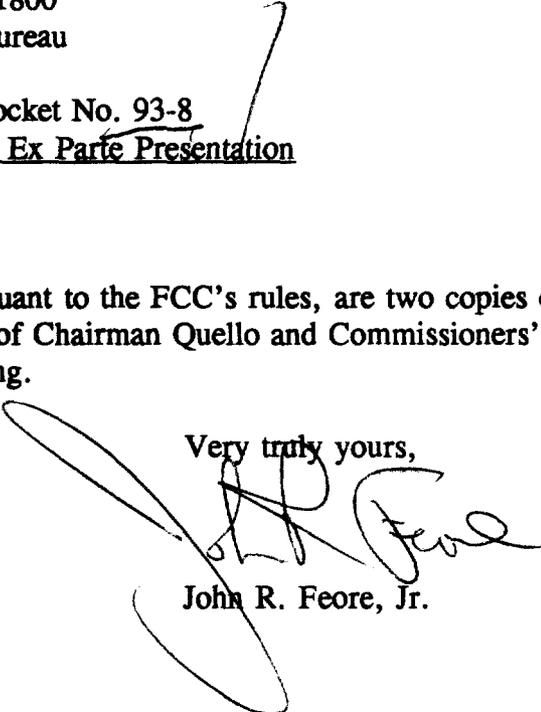
ATTN: STOP CODE 1800
Mass Media Bureau

Re: MM Docket No. 93-8
Written Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Mr. Caton:

Enclosed, pursuant to the FCC's rules, are two copies of material that has been delivered to the offices of Chairman Quello and Commissioners' Barrett and Duggan in the above-captioned proceeding.

Very truly yours,


John R. Feore, Jr.

JRF/lis
Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd 041
List A B C D E

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

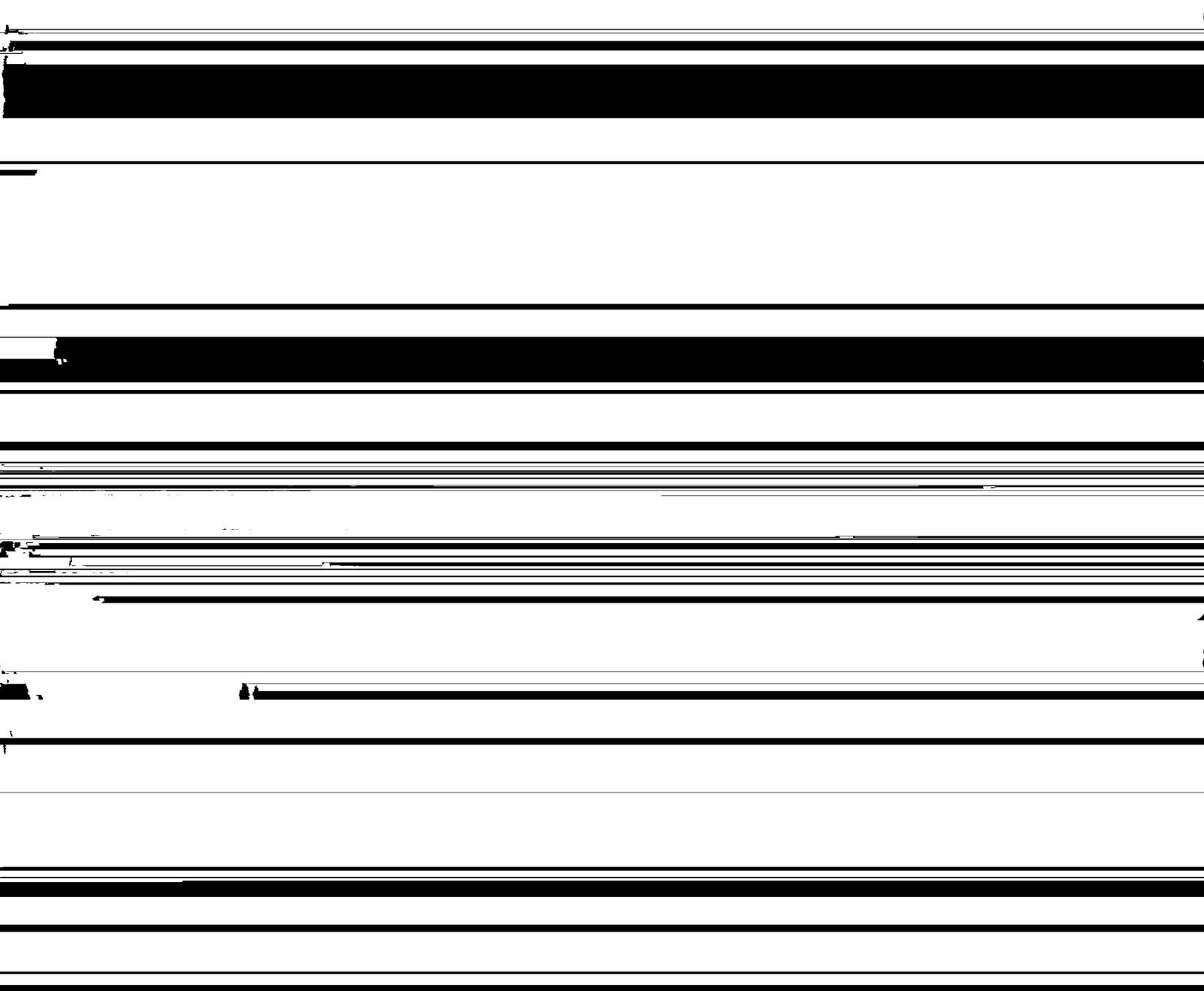
MEMORANDUM

June 28, 1993

**HSN-AFFILIATED STATIONS MEET THE
FCC'S PUBLIC INTEREST OBLIGATIONS**

The following outlines the six categories of public interest responsibilities of television licensees imposed by the Commission (and the Communications Act of 1934) and which are strictly adhered to by television stations affiliated with the Home Shopping Network, Inc.

I. Providing Programming in the Public Interest



children may be in the audience. HSN affiliates do not carry indecent or violent programming.

3. **Lotteries:** HSN affiliates adhere to restrictions on advertising lotteries.
4. **Contests:** The Commission rules governing the broadcast of the terms of contests and setting forth standards for the conduct of on-the-air contests apply to HSN affiliates.
5. **Sponsorship Identifications and Plugola/Payola Prohibitions:** HSN affiliates are subject to standards for ensuring that their audiences know who has paid for or provided programming aired on the stations. The stations also have obligations to ensure that their employees do not accept anything in exchange for the airing of promotions or program material, unless there is full disclosure.

II. Maintaining Records and Other Documentation for Public Scrutiny and Commission Examination

- A. **Public Inspection Files:** HSN affiliates maintain extensive files for inspection by any member of the public desiring to monitor the station's performance. Commission rules ensure public access (and the ability to copy) to large amounts of technical, programming, business and a host of other information.
- B. **Obtaining and Posting Authorizations:** HSN affiliates must have licensed operators and are subject to a number of rules requiring the posting of operator licenses and the designation of chief operators.
- C. **Station Logs:** HSN affiliates maintain station logs on their technical operations and must make the logs available to the Commission on request.
- D. **Political Files:** HSN affiliates maintain and permit inspection of files on all requests for political time by bona fide candidates.

III. Promoting Program Diversity by Promoting Diversity in Employment Through Equal Employment Opportunity Programs

- A. Establishment and Maintenance of Equal Employment Opportunity Programs:** HSN affiliates have and follow Commission-approved model equal employment opportunity programs to promote diversity in hiring. These obligations go well beyond those imposed on most other industries.
- B. Examination of Employment Practices:** HSN affiliates are subject to Commission review of the results of their equal employment practices.
- C. Employment Reporting Requirements:** Because they have stations with more than five full-time employees HSN affiliates file annual reports detailing the ethnic and gender composition of its workforce in a variety of categories.

IV. Providing a Forum for Political Candidates to Communicate to the Electorate

- A. Providing Advertising Time to Federal and State Political Candidates at Below-Market Rates:** HSN affiliates are required to sell advertising time to bona fide candidates at the "lowest unit rate." This concept which gives the candidate the benefit of discounts offered to a licensee's most favored advertiser, even though the candidate does not meet the requirements, such as volume purchases, that a normal commercial advertiser would have to meet to obtain the discount.
- B. Providing "Reasonable Access" to Federal Candidates:** HSN affiliates are required to provide federal candidates with "reasonable access" to their facilities. This obligation requires the broadcaster to make available to candidates time periods and commercial availabilities that it would deny to commercial advertisers, and often may require the broadcaster to preempt long-scheduled commercial announcements.
- C. Providing "Equal Opportunities" to Political Candidates:** HSN affiliates must provide candidates with the same opportunities they provide their opponents, even if last-minute requests cause substantial disruptions in planned programming.

- D. **Other Political Rules:** HSN affiliates have a host of other obligations related to their service as a medium for political candidates. Thus, these stations are subject to political editorializing rules, extensive recordkeeping requirements for the sale of political time, requirements for public access to information on candidate purchases of time, obligations in some circumstances to provide equivalent opportunities to supporters of political candidates, and disclosure of the parties paying for political commercials.

V. Adherence to Technical Standards

- A. **Tower Inspections:** HSN affiliates maintain and mark their towers under Commission rules.
- B. **Facilities Inspection and Maintenance:** HSN affiliates test and maintain their technical operations within the operating parameters set forth in the Commission's rules and in their instruments of authorization.

VI. Compliance with Periodic Filing Requirements at the Commission

- A. **Ownership Reports:** HSN affiliates annually file detailed ownership reports.
- B. **Employment Reports:** Because HSN affiliates have more than five full-time employees, they must file annual reports on the make-up of their workforces.
- C. **License Renewals:** Every five years, HSN affiliates file for renewal of license and are subject to petitions to deny and competing applications.

11. Miller Broadcasting, Inc. 24 Pages
KMCI, Lawrence, Kansas

12. Video Mall Communications 278 Pages
WTIC-TV, Springfield, Ohio