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November 26, 1993

Mr. William F. Caton, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC - MAIL ROOM

Re: Report of Ex Parte Communication  
MM Docket No. 87-268  
MM Docket No. 92-266  
MM Docket No. 93-114

Dear Mr. Caton

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(a)(2) of the Commission's Rules, submitted herewith are copies of ex parte written communications to Commission decision-making personnel concerning matters under consideration in the above-referenced docketed rule making proceedings.

Very truly yours,

Jud Colley, President  
COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

JC/kc

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MM 87-268  
92-266  
93-114

November 25, 1993

Mr. Johnathan Cohen  
Office of Chairman James H. Quello  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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By Facsimile to (202)632-5173

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Dear Johnathan:

Thank you very much for finding time to meet with the representatives of the Community Broadcasters Association on Tuesday, November 16. As we discussed, there are issues pending at the FCC which will determine the future of our industry. They include the following:

1. **FOUR LETTER CALL SIGNS.** CBA's petition for rule making to change the call sign format for LPTV stations was pending for two years before the FCC issued an NPRM in MM Docket 93-114 earlier this year. As you know, at the present, we have call signs made up of three letters and two numbers. It is difficult for the public to identify our stations, because viewers do not understand the format, and the odd format does not conform to the various databases the rating services and advertising agencies. The NPRM proposes that the suffix "-LP" be attached to four-letter LPTV call signs if the numbers are taken out. That will leave us with six-letter calls and defeat the purpose of meshing with databases. We need the Chairman's support for the same four letter call signs other TV stations have.

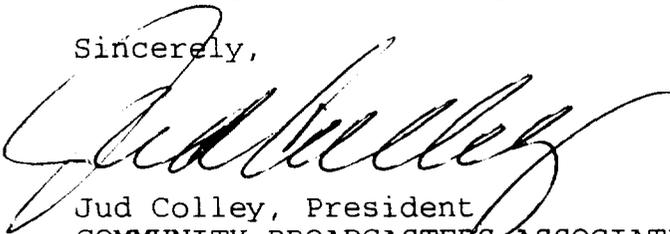
2. **LEASED ACCESS.** The rates for leasing cable channels are being addressed in MM Docket 92-266, dealing with cable rate regulation. It seems that leased channel rates were not given the attention they deserve, because the formula that was adopted results in a rate so high that it is not workable for a prospective channel lessee. Leased access was created to provide a "diversity of programming," but with the formula the FCC adopted, there will be no diversity because no one can afford to lease a channel. CBA has petitioned for reconsideration on this issue. Very few of our low power stations have must carry rights, so leased access is our only avenue for critical cable carriage. We need your support in getting a fair rate for leased access, including special consideration for locally programmed LPTV stations if appropriate.

3. **HDTV TABLE OF ALLOTMENTS.** The proposed table of

allotments for Advanced Television Systems published in MM Docket 87-268 does not take low power stations into account at all in choosing ATV channels for full power stations. There are no provisions for LPTV to convert to ATV and have any hope of permanence and there is no preference for operating LPTV stations in applying for any ATV channels not claimed by full power licensees. This scenario could seriously damage LPTV service and take local programming away from as many as 25,000,000 people who have grown to enjoy and depend on it. I understand that the new "Grand Alliance" ATV standard has great immunity to interference, thereby making it possible to move full power stations to ATV with necessarily "bumping" LPTV stations. We are licensed broadcasters serving the public interest; our channels should be the last to go to ATV, and we should be allowed to convert to ATV where channels are available and to have the first opportunity to apply for any available ATV channels not claimed by full power stations after their initial exclusive filing period ends.

We are a young and struggling industry providing the services for which we were created. We provide niche, local programming for groups not serviced by full power television. We are serving minority groups, religious groups, rural areas and, in the case of our own company's Tourist Network stations, business travelers and family vacationers. Our industry is growing, with some 1300 authorizations now issued. With the current rate of construction, the number of low power stations will exceed the number of full power stations in the very near future. Because we are new and struggling, we do not have the budgets to afford high-priced lobbyists constantly walking the halls of the Commission. We appeal our issues in person, so thanks again for seeing us on such short notice.

Sincerely,



Jud Colley, President  
COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

JC/kc

EX PARTIAL OR LATE FILED



MM 87-268  
92-266  
93-114

November 26, 1993

Ms. Lisa Smith  
Legal Adviser  
Office of Commissioner Andrew C. Barrett  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC - MAIL ROOM

By Facsimile to (202)632-5168

Dear Lisa:

Thank you very much for finding time to meet with the representatives of the Community Broadcasters Association on Tuesday, November 16. As we discussed, there are issues pending at the FCC which will determine the future of our industry. They include the following:

1. **FOUR LETTER CALL SIGNS.** CBA's petition for rule making to change the call sign format for LPTV stations was pending for two years before the FCC issued an NPRM in MM Docket 93-114 earlier this year. As you know, at the present, we have call signs made up of three letters and two numbers. It is difficult for the public to identify our stations, because viewers do not understand the format, and the odd format does not conform to the various databases the rating services and advertising agencies. The NPRM proposes that the suffix "-LP" be attached to four-letter LPTV call signs if the numbers are taken out. That will leave us with six-letter calls and defeat the purpose of meshing with databases. We need the Commission's support for the same four letter call signs other TV stations have.

2. **LEASED ACCESS.** The rates for leasing cable channels are being addressed in MM Docket 92-266, dealing with cable rate regulation. It seems that leased channel rates were not given the attention they deserve, because the formula that was adopted results in a rate so high that it is not workable for a prospective channel lessee. Leased access was created to provide a "diversity of programming," but with the formula the FCC adopted, there will be no diversity because no one can afford to lease a channel. CBA has petitioned for reconsideration on this issue. Very few of our low power stations have must carry rights, so leased access is our only avenue for critical cable carriage. We need your support in getting a fair rate for leased access, including special consideration for locally programmed LPTV stations if appropriate.

3. **HDTV TABLE OF ALLOTMENTS.** ~~THE~~ proposed table of allotments for Advanced Television Systems published in MM Docket 87-268 does not take low power stations into account at all in choosing ATV channels for full power stations. There are no provisions for LPTV to convert to ATV and have any hope of permanence and there is no preference for operating LPTV stations in applying for any ATV channels not claimed by full power licensees. This scenario could seriously damage LPTV service and take local programming away from as many as 25,000,000 people who have grown to enjoy and depend on it. I understand that the new "Grand Alliance" ATV standard has great immunity to interference, thereby making it possible to move full power stations to ATV with necessarily "bumping" LPTV stations. We are licensed broadcasters serving the public interest; our channels should be the last to go to ATV, and we should be allowed to convert to ATV where channels are available and to have the first opportunity to apply for any available ATV channels not claimed by full power stations after their initial exclusive filing period ends.

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Sincerely,



Jud Colley, President  
COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

JC/ kc