THE UNIVERSITY OF
ARIZONA
TUCSON ARIZONA

Department of Management Information Systems
Karl Eller Graduate School of Management
College of Business and Public Administration

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Tucson, Arizona 85721
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JUL 18 1995
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 14, 1995

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
8th Floor, Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

Docket 87-268

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rule making. As an educator and researcher at the University of Arizona, I am appalled that so little broadcasting capability in America is used for constructive purposes; it is handed over to those commercial providers who can raise enough capital to support their endeavors. Why isn't some of this capability guaranteed for more productive usage, for programming about international news, self-paced instruction programs, cultural enrichment and foreign language broadcasts? It has been well-documented that violent and sensational entertainment, which uses TELEVISION BANDWIDTH as one of its main distribution channels, has promoted a rise in crime and moral degradation. Are you willing to be responsible for an acceleration of this trend, by giving more bandwidth to fewer providers?

As you know, the conversion to digital broadcasting will change the face of television as we have known it. Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly-owned spectrum that will permit them to engage in a myriad of program and non-program services. We believe, therefore, that it is self-evident that public should be permitted to comment on whether there should be some enhanced public interest obligations attendant to the grant of the supplemental spectrum.

There has already been some public debate as to whether broadcasters should be required to provide free time to political candidates or should have enhanced children's television obligations in return for use of the extra spectrum. We believe that these are just some of the possibilities. The Commission should therefore ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann K. Danowitz

Ann K. Danowitz
Research Specialist

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JUL 18 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

7/15/95

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20554

Docket 87-268

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rule making.

Stein Computer Consultants is interested is seeing an expansion of public interest and children's non commercial programming. As providers of Medical Management software we are familiar with and share the opinion of the medical community on this matter. You have a unique opportunity to provide a new direction in the use of the broadcast media and the public interest.

As you know, the conversion to digital broadcasting will change the face of television as we have known it. Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly-owned spectrum that will permit them to engage in a myriad of program and non-program services. We believe, therefore, that it is self-evident that public should be permitted to comment on whether there should be some enhanced public interest obligations attendant to the grant of the supplemental spectrum.

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The Commission should therefore ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum.

Whatever one thinks of the idea of having broadcasters give something back to the public in exchange for the use of extra spectrum, at the very least, the public should be allowed to comment on such a proposal. To do otherwise would stifle the debate in what may be the best, last chance to promote democracy in the mass media.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Stein
President

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July 13, 1995

Commisioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20554

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JUL 1 8 1995
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Docket 87-268

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Dear Ms. Ness:

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rulemaking.

I am deeply involved in the production of commercial and educational "virtual reality" products, as well as Internet-based advertising. I am greatly enthusiastic about the nearly endless possibilities that the burgeoning communications technologies have to offer, but I also strongly believe in the maintenance of public-interest broadcasting and communications facilities and resources. It is vitaly important that, in the rush to exploit the new communications media, we do not neglect our humanity. The bottom line is that a bankrupt culture makes for a bankrupt nation, and we cannot afford to let this happen.

As you know, the conversion to digital broadcasting will change the face of television as we have known it. Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly-owned spectrum that will permit them to engage in a myriad of program and non-program services. We believe, therefore, that it is self-evident that public should be permitted to comment on whether there should be some enhanced public interest obligations attendant to the grant of the supplemental spectrum.

There has already been some public debate as to whether broadcasters should be required to provide free time to political candidates or should have enhanced children's television obligations in return for use of the extra spectrum. We believe that these are just some of the possibilities. The Commission should therefore ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum.

Whatever one thinks of the idea of having broadcasters give something back to the public in exchange for the use of extra spectrum, at the very least, the public should be allowed to comment on such a proposal. To do otherwise would stifle the debate in what may be the best, last chance to promote democracy in the mass media.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Bailey Johansen
138 Albion
San Francisco CA 94107
(415)284-5300
ns2@match.com

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List A B C D E

Committee on Democratic Communications
558 Capp Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
Tel: (415) 267-6174

87-268

RECEIVED
JUL 18 1995
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 16, 1995

Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

BY FAX AND MAIL

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Ms. Ness:

We are writing to urge you to ensure that the Commission asks pertinent public interest related questions in the upcoming digital television rulemaking.

The National Lawyers Guild's Committee on Democratic Communications (CDC) works to provide legal analysis and support for independent communications organizations, especially those organized at the grassroots community level and at the international level. CDC members have represented the Guild at the international meetings of the MacBride Roundtable on Communications and assisted in drafting that organization's proposed constitution. The CDC has advised the African National Congress on broadcast policy and regulations which have been instituted under the new South African constitution, and the CDC is also active in the debate surrounding micro power radio as a means of providing increased public access to the airwaves.

As you know, the conversion to digital broadcasting will change the face of television as we have known it. Broadcasters are asking the Commission for an extra block of publicly-owned spectrum that will permit them to engage in a myriad of program and non-program services. As a result, we believe that the public should be permitted to comment on whether there should be some enhanced public interest obligations attendant to the grant of the supplemental spectrum.

There has already been some public debate as to whether broadcasters should be required to provide free time to political candidates or should have enhanced children's television obligations in return for use of the extra spectrum. We believe that these are just some of the possibilities. The Commission should therefore ask broad, open-ended questions about possible public interest uses for the spectrum.

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Whatever one thinks of the idea of having broadcasters give something back to the public in exchange for the use of extra spectrum, at the very least, the public should be allowed to comment on such a proposal. To do otherwise would stifle the debate in what may be the best, last chance to promote democracy in the mass media.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alan Korn
Committee on
Democratic Communications

:ak
cc: Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Andrew C Barrett, Commissioner
James H. Quello, Commissioner