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March 29, 1996

EX PARTE

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

MAR 29 1996

Re: MM Docket No. 87-268

Dear Mr. Caton:

The Mass Media Bureau recently invited public comment in the above-referenced proceeding on the application of the Commission's cable television must-carry rules with regard to advanced television ("ATV") systems. OpTel, which operates several small franchised cable systems, has reviewed the comments filed in this proceeding and, for the record, would like to add its support for the positions taken by the National Cable Television Association.

If small cable systems are required to make substantial technical modifications to their systems in order to comply with new ATV must carry rules, the economic burden imposed would undermine significantly the ability of these systems to remain competitive in the market. This, ultimately, would lead to a reduction in service to consumers and further concentration in the MVPD market.

Respectfully Submitted,



Attorney for OpTel, Inc.

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