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**From:** robert huesca <RHUESCA@Trinity.Edu>  
**To:** J4.J4(dtvallotments)  
**Date:** 30 Nov 1996 11:07a  
**Subject:** public comments

DEC 2 1996

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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to whom it may concern,

i am commenting on Mass Media Docket No. 87-268. i am a professor of communication who is interested in advancing public interest initiatives in our media environment. i understand that the fcc is currently considering how to go about licensing broadcasters using digital spectrum space. i am writing to let you know that i am in support of defining broadcasters' public interest obligations before they receive their digital licenses. i believe the state of public communication in the united states is embarrassingly poor. i believe the new digital licensing procedures provide an opportunity for the federal government to institute policies that will have far reaching, inexpensive, positive impacts on the state of public communication in the country.

please let me know if there is any other way in which i may participate in the review process that is currently underway at the fcc.

thank you,

~~~~~  
Dr. Robert Huesca  
Communication 715 Stadium Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78212-7200 work 210-736-8169 home 210-829-4722 fax 210-736-8355  
e-mail rhuesca@trinity.edu  
~~~~~

CC: FCCMAIL.SMTP("benton@benton.org")

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**From:** RALPH KRANZ <rkranz@alexandria.lib.utah.edu>  
**To:** J4.J4(dtvallotments)  
**Date:** 2 Dec 1996 12:45p  
**Subject:** mass media docket #87-268

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Division of Information  
Office of the Secretary

I, as an academic library, and more so, as a common citizen who desperately needs "information" to keep the US representative democracy responding to well thought out needs/demands, support the following from the Benton group:

"Broadcasters are about to get twice as much of the broadcast spectrum as they have now -- for free. Many think they ought to pay for it -- just like every other new entrant does. But at the very least, broadcasters need to make the commitment to more expansive -- and frankly more creative -- ways to make television work harder for the public."

"In comments filed at the FCC on Friday, November 22, Benton called for a formal rulemaking process to define broadcasters' public interest obligations in the digital era." "Programming quality, not picture and sound quality, should be the ultimate test for a public that seems fairly uninterested in digital TV."

"Benton believes that the only way to do this is through a formal rulemaking \*before\* digital licenses are issued. That way, we can all together -- broadcasters, government leaders, public interest groups, and the American public -- define the public interest in the digital age. And where it could take us." I STRONGLY AGREE WITH THIS!

I support the Benton initiative to define broadcasters' public interest obligations in the digital age.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted

Ralph Kranz; Head, Multimedia Center  
Marriott Library  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, Ut 84112 w 801-581-7995 fax 585-3463 h 944-5850 rkranz@library.utah.edu

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**From:** Barbara Popovic <cantv@mcs.com>  
**To:** J4.J4(dtvallotments)  
**Date:** 2 Dec 1996 2:03p  
**Subject:** Digital TV

Re: Mass Media Docket No.87-268

From: Barbara Popovic  
Executive Director  
Chicago Access Corporation  
322 S. Green  
Chicago, Il. 60607

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I am writing in support of defining broadcasters' public interest obligations before they receive their digital licenses. Commercial broadcast television has failed to serve the public interest in the areas of health, jobs and training, education and other areas. Chicago Access Corporation is the public access facility that serves the City of Chicago. We work with thousands of residents and local nonprofits who put programs and messages on the local cable access channels. A wide range of groups make use of the channels, from Rush Presbyterian St. Lukes Hospital, which uses the local bulletin board to recruit patients for medical testing, to schools and universities that do educational programs, recruit tutors and train local school council members, to jobs and training groups, some of whom have reported using the channels for up to 90% of their recruitment. Citizens of this country do not need more entertainment. We need to assure that the most powerful medium of our time has "public space" to help address issues and needs of critical importance.

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Office of the  
Attorney General

**From:** Mary M. Kirby <kirby@interaccess.com>  
**To:** J4.J4(dtvallotments)  
**Date:** 2 Dec 1996 11:25a  
**Subject:** Digital licenses for broadcasters

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Greetings,

We are writing you this morning because of our deep concern that we, the public, be the top priority in the granting of all digital licenses. The clear definition of these "public interested obligations" must be so concisely drawn as to not be delegated to the 2 am program slot.

There is painfully little Independent media that is broadcasted or cablecasted into the American TV sets. The reason our project works with public libraries is that these are the only public insitutions that are open to the idea of a diverse collection with a variety of perspectives and views. The broadcast and cablecast media have doors that where closed to us a very long time ago. As you review the Mass Media Docket No. 87-268, please remember your past failures and our future promises. Support the Independent voices through specific regulations.

Thank you.

Mary M. Kirby  
Director

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MacArthur Foundation Library Video Project  
Chicago, Illinois

visit our health website at: <http://sebridge.org/~macart>

e-mail: [kirby@macarthurlib.org](mailto:kirby@macarthurlib.org) phone: 800-847-3671

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