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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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

Re: MM Docket No. 87-268, Advanced Television Systems

Dear Sir:

I write on behalf of my client, Iberia Communications, L.L.C. ("Iberia Communications"), applicant for a new television station to operate on Channel 36 at New Iberia, Louisiana. This submission is not intended as a formal petition for reconsideration of the Sixth Report and Order released on April 21, 1997, in the above-referenced rulemaking proceeding, but rather is intended as a reaffirmation of the position taken and the relief requested in comments filed on December 11, 1996, in the rulemaking.

In those comments, Iberia Communications urged the Commission to preserve a television channel at New Iberia, its first television outlet. The applicant noted that two applications had been timely filed for the channel on or before the NTSC cut-off date of September 20, 1996, and that Channel 36 had been in the Commission's Table of Allotments since the early 1970's. Indeed, a construction permit on the channel had been awarded, but was deleted after the Commission had imposed its major market ATV freeze in 1987. Community leaders, as well as Congressman Billy Tauzin and Senator John Breaux, also expressed enthusiastic support for the channel's preservation after the filing of the Iberia Communications application and during the rulemaking process.

The Sixth Report and Order appears to have responded to these entreaties by revising the DTV assignments in Table 1 thereto to accommodate Channel 36 at New Iberia. Further, the Report and Order resolves to "protect vacant NTSC allotments that are the subject of pending applications . . . and [to] avoid creating DTV allotments that would conflict with proposed new NTSC

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allotments.” (At 52.) We applaud this approach. We urge the Commission to expedite issuance of the Order promised in footnote 192 to delete vacant allotments, lift the 1987 freeze, and develop an approach permitting prompt processing of applications for allotments which have been filed at the earliest possible time. Only in this manner will growing, deserving communities like New Iberia secure the television outlet of which they have been deprived for so many years.

Sincerely yours,



Howard M. Weiss

HWM:mlp

cc: Stuart B. Mitchell, Esq.
Hon. Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Hon. James H. Quello
Hon. Rachelle B. Chong
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