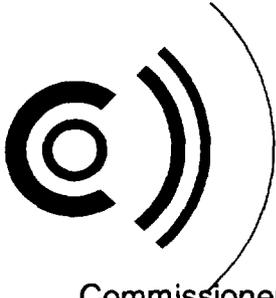


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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. N.W., Rm. 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

November 12, 1998

RECEIVED

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing to urge you to preserve local programming options available to communities through the Direct Broadcast Satellite. We pay a fee each year from local tax dollars to ensure the use of the satellite for our Community Access Center. In turn, CAC provides us with broadcasting that is relevant only to us: local government meetings, arts programs, and informational offerings.

We are fearful that if the DBS providers were allowed the ability to choose their own programmers, the local interest programming in many communities would evaporate.

Of course CAC is much more than the programs that are broadcast. Our local facility gives us use of equipment and expertise to produce our own programs highlighting issues and interventions meaningful to us. A change in the ruling will also jeopardize our ability to "get out our message" to the community and to garner collaborative response and support.

The concept of an "electronic green space" is a good one and we believe that like public land and public water, access to communications is a resource that needs to be preserved for the good of the community.

On the reverse of this letter is a list of the groups and organizations which are active participants in our Coalition. We band together in asking you to vote against giving Direct Broadcast Satellite providers the ability to pick their own programmers

Sincerely,

Sam Haywood, Chairman

copy: Joan Burke, CAC

No. of Copies rec'd 0 + 1
List ABCDE

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

DIRECT SERVICE & ADVOCACY

American Red Cross
Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo
The ARK for Runaways
Bertha Capon Reynolds Society
Boys and Girls Club of Kalamazoo
Catholic Family Services
Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Council
Child Care Resources
Community Access Center (Cable TV Access)
Dispute Resolution Center
Douglass Community Association
Family Health Center
The Forum for Kalamazoo County
Greater Kalamazoo United Way
Healing Racism
Healthy Futures
Hispanic American Council
Junior Achievement
Junior League of Greater Kalamazoo
Kala Area Academic Achievement Program
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
Kalamazoo Valley Museum
Kalamazoo Public Education Foundation
Leadership Kalamazoo
League of Women Voters of Kalamazoo Area
Ministry With Community
NAACP
Prevention Works!
ProjectFREE
United Way & Youth United Way
Vision Council
Volunteer Action Center
VolunTEENS
YMCA
YWCA

GOVERNMENT

City of Kalamazoo
 City Manager's Office
 Dept of Public Safety
 Division of Recreation, Leisure & Cultural Svcs
Kalamazoo County
 Community Corrections
 Family Independence Agency
 Human Services Department
 Juvenile Home
 Michigan Works
 Probate Court - Juvenile Division
 Probation Enhancement Program
 Prosecutor's Office

NEIGHBORHOODS

Eastside Neighborhood Association
Edison Neighborhood Association
Northside Ass'n for Community Development
Stuart Neighborhood Association
Vine Neighborhood Association

BUSINESSES

Borgess Health Alliance
Bronson Healthcare Group
Crystal Radio Group
First of America Bank Corporation
Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce
Kalamazoo Gazette
Teicity
W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
WGUV-WGVK - Public Television
WKZO--FM
WOTV
WWMT - TV

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Church of God in Christ
Church of God of Prophecy
Church Women United
Coalition of Compassion
Diocese of Kalamazoo
Galilee Baptist Church
Northside Ministerial Alliance
Stockbridge Ave United Methodist Church
Youth For Christ

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Kalamazoo College
Kalamazoo Public Schools
Kalamazoo Regional Educ Services Agency
 Education For the Arts
 Education For Employment
 Youth Opportunities Unlimited
Kalamazoo Valley Community College
MSU Cooperative Extension Service
Region 12 SAPE
Western Michigan University
 Criminal Justice Program
 Department of Social Work
 Department of Sociology
 Inst for the Study of Race & Ethnic Rel
 Kercher Center for Social Research