

Anne Fesh

From: Mark_Smiech/NIG/SArmy%NIG%SAHUB@salvationarmy.org
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 8:51 AM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Video Description

Magalie Salas
Secretary Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:
I am submitting comments "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR Reconsideration OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION. @ The official Docket number is Docket No. 99-339.

I am writing to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description to people, who are blind and visually impaired. It is very important for someone who cannot see the screen to have an alternative means of knowing what is on the screen. Video description is the means by which this goal can be accomplished.

In the past, I have enjoyed video description on a limited basis through the public television Channel, W. E. D. U. Channel 3, in my home state of Florida. My husband, who is sighted, has watched the programs with me, and it was nice for him to be able to enjoy the show without the added responsibility of having to describe the action to me.

I am a missionary in Nigeria, and they do not have anything close to Descriptive video there. I am looking forward to being on my homeland furlough, (or leave), in April 2001, and turning the television on to enjoy a described program with my family and friends. The video description will also help me to understand the visual aspects of the program.

It is essential for visually impaired and blind people to have the same rights as their sighted counterparts. We have the right to watch television and know what is happening on the screen. The petitioners have not provided any new information that was not already known at the time that the FCC made their decision. Your urgent consideration of this matter is needed immediately.

Thank you for your prompt attention.
Very sincerely,

Mary B. Smiech

Anne Fesh

From: Byron Smith [byron@indiana.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 11:28 AM
To: byron@indiana.edu
Cc: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Letter to Magalie Salas

Dear Ms. Salas,

I am writing to submit comments "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION."

First, would you please convey to the Commissioners of the FCC my appreciation for their vote requiring television networks to provide video description. As a totally blind person I need that essential information for TV programming to be fully accessible. Last Sunday evening my wife and I watched an episode of "Touched By An Angel" on CBS. If my wife had not provided description--she is a trained describer--I would have not known what was happening during several minutes of music with no dialogue. The program content would have been drastically diminished without description.

I have enjoyed DVS, Descriptive Video Service, on selected PBS series and movies on video with DVS. There needs to be more description on television. The deaf viewer has had closed captioning for decades. Blind and visually impaired viewers deserve equal access to TV programs. If the FCC ruling stands, in April, 2002, I can begin having more access to the most popular entertainment and information medium in our American culture.

Video description adds depth and meaning to TV programs. It is my understanding that the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known when the Commissioners reached their decision and issued their ruling.

Please consider this letter to be an Official Filing concerning Docket #99-339.

Sincerely,

Byron K Smith

"All of us can truly be
Known for our abilities."

Byron K Smith, Producer
Division of Broadcast and Electronic Media
IU Office of Communications and Marketing
Phone: (812) 855-9323
E-mail: byron@indiana.edu
Fax: (812) 855-7002 -- ATTN Byron

October 31, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Secretary Salas:

I am submitting comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I want to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description of key visual element of television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers by April, 2002.

As a person with a visual impairment, I know the feeling of missing out on key elements of television programming. As a certified rehabilitation teacher with the blind and visually impaired, I know firsthand how much video description enhances the enjoyment of television for people unable to see the screen. For blind people, particularly the elderly, television is a primary source of information and entertainment.

The petitioners have not provided any new information regarding this issue which was not already known at the time the FCC reaching its decision and issued the ruling.

I strongly urge that the petitions for reconsideration be rejected.

Sincerely,

Betty Soderholm
3 Crestview Dr.
Southboro, MA 01772

Anne Fesh

From: ELSPAMS@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2000 5:27 PM
To: info@acb.org; access@fcc.gov
Subject: Letter to FCC

I am submitting comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I do appreciate your Agency investigating video description. This is very important to my family. Our son is legally blind due to Retinitis Pigmentosa and his wife is totally blind due to birth difficulties. They enjoy television and when they are with us we can try to describe events pictured on the screen. However, they live independently, as they should, and are often "in the dark" about what is happening on the screen.

I have closed my eyes and listened to the TV, trying to not look at the screen--it's very difficult to understand what is happening. Often there is action only during a program and there is no way to "get the picture". Television has closed captioning for the hearing impaired, it seems only fair to have descriptive video for the visually impaired.

Your kind consideration is most appreciated in this matter.

Patricia M. Southwell
2201 Salt Myrtle Lane
Orange Park, FL 32003

Anne Fesh

From: Mike & Dolly Sowder
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 3:02 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: FCC Docket No. 99-339

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

November 3, 2000

Dear Ms. Salas,

This is regarding Docket # 99-339.

This letter is in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description service for people who are blind or visually impaired.

It is very important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means for knowing what's happening on the television. Words cannot express how much video description means to me. It has allowed me to enjoy movies and plays with family and friends and given me a real feeling of independence. I have been looking forward to turning on my television in April, 2002, to enjoy shows with family and friends and to use the video description to help understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I want to be able to enjoy the same programming as others.

Sincerely,

Dolly Sowder
205 Hawthorne Dr
Bedford, IN 47421

Anne Fesh

From: Mike & Dolly Sowder
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 2:59 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: FCC Docket No. 99-339

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

November 3, 2000

Dear Ms. Salas,

This is regarding Docket # 99-339.

This letter is in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description service for people who are blind or visually impaired.

I am writing this letter in consideration of and for people who are blind or visually impaired. It is very important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means for knowing what's happening on the television. It allows people who are blind or visually impaired to enjoy television with family and friends and give them a real feeling of independence.

The FCC needs to do the right thing by requiring video description to be on television.

Sincerely,

Mike Sowder
205 Hawthorne Dr
Bedford, IN 47421

Anne Fesh

From: gene Spurrier [gene-5@home.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2000 7:04 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Video description for blind

m. Eugene Spurrier
1522 Glen Keith Blvd,
Baltimore Maryland, 21286
November 6, 2000

Re: docket number 99339

To whom it may concern,

Please consider this letter my official statement in opposition to petitioners' requests for reconsideration of the reported order on video description issued by the Federal Communications Commission on July 21, 2000.

I am a 72 year old blind man who has spent many years of frustration with my television set because on countless occasions I was unable to determine the outcome of shows in which I was involved due to the lack of verbal commentary at crucial junctures in the play or movie, as the case may have been.

For these reasons it is not hard to imagine how elated I was when the Commissioners handed down their courageous vote in the affirmative regarding the provision of video description of television programming for the blind and visually impaired on July 21, 2000. I am aware from my limited exposure to video description that this decision on the part of the Commissioners will greatly enhance the pleasure that those of us who are blind will enjoy when watching television, either alone, or with our families and friends because we will be as knowledgeable as they are regarding what is transpiring on the screen.

Now, suddenly, it appears that this new freedom to enjoy movies and tv shows on equal footing with our sighted friends in the community may be taken away because of petitions for reconsideration of the July 21 order submitted by television, cable, and movie associations.

It is my understanding that these petitioners have not provided any information to the Commission which was not already available at the time the ruling was made some four months ago. Therefore, there does not appear to be any reason why the Commission should honor the petitioners' requests for reconsideration of the order.

The value of video descriptions to blind and visually impaired people cannot be over estimated; and, as an individual who plans to take full advantage of its availability, I wish personally to thank the Commissioners for the positive stand they have taken regarding this matter. Further, I request that nothing be done to alter the content of the ruling of July 21 2000.

Sincerely yours,

M. Eugene Spurrier

Anne Fesh

From: daniel stabe [stabe@sedona.net]

Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 5:08

To: access@fcc.gov

Cc: acb

Subject: Docket # 99-339

Video Description

Whom it may concern:

The recent petition by the magor TV, MPA and others will restrict my pleasure to enjoy shows they provide! I have enjoyed listening to several shows on the SAP channel on my local PBS TV outlet. This allows me to be indepent of others. It is not pleasurable to keep asking someone what is going on. It is nice to allow one to laugh without intrupting all the time and to deny them the pleasure of watching a show. I am alone most of the time, and TV would be more pleasurable if description is available. The bandwidth is there. It sounds like to me that they do not want to part with money to help people with blindness or impaired sight. There is many! Press on and hold them to provide Video description. I thank you!

Sincerely,

Daniel Stabe

25 skyline Circle
Sedona, AZ 86351-8865

11/10/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Wayne Stanko [wstanko@home.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2000 2:38 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: Docket No. 99-339, In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

Jan M. Stanko
26 Greenleaf Circle
Asheville, NC 28804
9 November 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket Number 99-339
Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration
of the reported order on video description.

Dear Ms. Salas:

Thanks to the FCC for their July decision requiring television networks to provide audio descriptions of programs by April 2002. Video description is a necessary service which is needed immediately. I have been enjoying described video tapes which I borrow from the North Carolina State Library for the Blind. I have been delighted to have the few movies or plays described as I watch them on television. Words of description complement the action and complete the understanding of what would otherwise be half messages resulting from incomplete information. I am certain that the ADA law intends to create an all inclusive environment, which dictates that network programming needs to be audio descriptive as well. You can easily imagine the tension and annoyance created when a sighted person takes the time to describe a scene to a visually impaired person while simultaneously missing what comes up next. The description needs to be included in the original material.

We also need descriptive video service for informational programs such as the news. Emergency alerts scrolled across the bottom of a screen are fine for sighted persons and the hearing impaired, but after being alerted by the audio signal, a visually impaired person becomes frustrated because they cannot determine the nature of the alert.

Since the facts prevailing at the time of the original decision have not changed and there is an immediate need for descriptive audio, I see no reason for delaying the implementation. The networks should provide this service as soon as possible. It is my hope that this will be done long before April 2000.

Sincerely,

Jan M. Stanko

11/9/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Carol Ahlvers [Carol@kwu.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2000 7:31 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Save the Video Description Service

1219 Sierra Drive
Salina, Kansas 67401

October 30, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, KC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

We are writing to you today to ask you to continue your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing essential information to people who are legally blind and visually impaired.

I am 79 years old and has been legally blind for two decades. Truly, I appreciate watching and understanding television. The video descriptions make all the difference in the world to her enjoying the entertainment. I can enjoy programs with my husband, children, and grandchildren.

Please continue your defense and support of the video description for citizens needing help because of their visual disabilities. I certainly am

"In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description."

The video description service is valuable and there is no new evidence or information to support a change in the FCC decision.

I thank you for your consideration. And, I hope to enjoy the video description service for many years to come. Yes, I do have family and friends who need this assistance too.

Sincerely yours,

Waneta A. Steimel
785-827-6899

Anne Fesh

From: judy [jsterlin@suffolk.lib.ny.us]
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 4:21 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Fw: opposition to petitions of

-----Original Message-----

From: judy <jsterlin@suffolk.lib.ny.us>
To: info@acb.org <info@acb.org>
Date: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 12:35 AM
Subject: opposition to petitions of reconsideration

Judith Sterling

17 Grove Place

Babylon, NY 11702

Magaline Salas, Secretary

Federal Communication Commission

445 12th St. SW

Washington D. C., 20554

Dear Magline Salas,

I am writing to you in regards to The Federal Communications Commission's ruling to require television stations to provide descriptive narration as of April 2002. Docket No.: 99-3394.

First, I would like to congratulate you on making such a decision, and thank you very much for making such a ruling. I am a blind woman that lives in Babylon, New York, and I for one really appreciate having had the opportunity to experience descriptive narration on the Public Broadcasting Station and on some of the local cable programs. I have also had the great fortune to have been able to have had access to some of the Described Videos produced by Descriptive Video Service through our Talking Book Library In Suffolk. As well as the experience of having gone to a Broadway play and being a recipient of a described service. I can not tell you how much pleasure I have gotten out of this type of secondary broadcasting. For me I do not need to view television with another person, giving me the complete access to unspoken information, and allowing me independence, and dignity, which I deserve. I do not have to feel embarrassed when disturbed movie goes shhh my friend or family member as I ask questions, and they respond back in hushed tones about pertinent described plot information. I would find this extremely helpful when viewing dance productions, dramas, and stories, as well as instructional types of shows, for example, cooking, or "how to do" programming, or exercise programs to name just a few. Plus I speak for younger people and how it plays an important part of socialization and assimilation in our society in regards to learning about facial gestures, and body language, something that a young person with out vision may not always be aware of or understand, but hearing it in its content will help to provide understanding. Another point to consider is that when a friend sits with me and tries to describe what is going on on it is not always an easy task especially when the particular film contains a lot of action, and the person is viewing things for the first time. Sometimes things can happen so quickly it is hard for a person to visually digest and then interpret everything at once, and in order to do justice to the film and me the listener of the work, a describer may need extra time viewing the film before hand. Described narration does this. It is thought out and planned. The describers are well prepared with information important to the plot seemingly to best reflect the intentions of the director. For me descriptive narration makes the story, or plot of a story come alive. It helps the mind to create pictures similar to the experience one gets when reading a book filled with fascinating details. The description always accesses information and the ability to experience the expression of affect the director is trying to create in his production of a film, a work of art. If color and design are not important to people in general, why do we give awards for such things? Now imagine how it would be if we as a society lived in a world of gray, without detail. I would imagine most people would be

11/8/2000

glum, constantly looking and hoping for the sunshine to appear. Descriptive narration is that ray of sunshine for me. It means that I do not have to guess about those silent pauses between dialogue where action occurs on a set. It helps me to sometimes creat a mood and understanding that may not be there unless it was described.

Once again I thank you for your ruling and I look forward to such a secondary broadcasting in the not so distant future.

Sincerely,

Judith Sterling

President of the American Council of the Blind of Suffolk County, Long Island

Anne Fesh

From: judy [jsterlin@suffolk.lib.ny.us]
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 4:16 AM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: opposition to petitions of

To the Federal Communications Commission
445 12 th st SW
Washingto, DC

Dear Commissioners,

This letter is being submitted as opposition to the reconsideratin of the ruling for descriptive narration be reired for all statios to provide as of April 2002. Docket number 99-3394.

I am a mother of a woman who has utilized and apprecaites the benefits of descriptive narration. Such a service provides her with a sense of dignity and independence. please do not reconsider, and continue on in your most educational efforts.

Sincerely,
mary Sterling
17 Grove Place
Babylon, NY 11702

11/10/2000

Anne Fesh

From: ArtDS55@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2000 11:39 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: Official filings Docket No.99-339

To FCC Disability Rights Office;
I would like to thank the Commissioners of the FCC for their positive vote on discriptive television.
As a blind person I am looking forward to having access to television programing in the near furture. However, I understand there is is a drive to cancel this positive action for blind people.

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH TAKING AWAY OUR RIGHT TO TELEVISION ACCESS!

If you have any questions concerning this matter please feel free to contact me via e-mail or phone 503-585-4318.

Sincerely,
Art Stevenson
An advocate for the visually impaired

Anne Fesh

From: McLeod Stinnett [macks75205@mail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2000 6:41 PM
To: access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.org
Subject: to the FCC concerning docket number 99-339

As a totally blind person, I am very concerned about the petitions that are circulating concerning, doing away with the recent decision of the FCC to allow video descriptive television. I, personally do not watch much prime time tv because it is so visual. In the past, I have had the pleasure to experience descriptive video, both on tv and on movie tapes. It added a lot to my enjoyment of the program or movie. The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached it's decision and issued the ruling. I hope the original decision will stand.

sincerely,, McLeod Stinnett

FREE Personalized Email at Mail.com
Sign up at <http://www.mail.com/?sr=signup>

Anne Fesh

From: astokes [astokes@delanet.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2000 12:50 PM

To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org

Subject: IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION

CONCERNING DOCKET NO. 99-339

My husband and I, who are both visually impaired, thank your commission for your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing description to viewers who are blind or visually impaired.

We believe that we have the right to know what is happening on the TV screen. We know how vital it is because we have enjoyed many movies which have description added. Also, we have found pleasure in description on LIMITED channels so we know it can be done. We were so excited to hear that, in April, 2002, we would have this service on all the networks. It will be wonderful to have description for the visual aspects of programming.

Please let us reaffirm our belief in the value of descriptive TV. Further, we would like to point out that the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and the ruling was issued. As you already know, this is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider.

We are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Thank you very much for your interest, courtesy and attention.

Sincerely yours,

Ada M. and E. W. Stokes

Anne Fesh

From: Mikesunt@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 11:01
To: Info@acb.org
Subject: docket # 99-339

Dear Sir:

I am legally blind. My eyesight is 22 x 400. Watching television is difficult for me, and I miss a lot of what is being presented because I can't see clearly. "Video discription" would be a great asset and help me to have a fuller enjoyment of the programs.

I understand some petitioners are trying to reverse the ruling of the FCC for no good reason. Please accept my opposition for consideration of docket # 99-339 .

Yours truly,
Michael Sunt

10/31/2000

Anne Fesh

From: tony swartz [tonyswartz@fast.net]
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2000 9:41 PM
To: info@acb.org; access@fcc.gov
Subject: Comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

1944 Girard Ave.
Allentown Pa. 18104-1114

November 4, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
the Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission,

First, allow me to express my gratitude and appreciation for your momentous ruling of July 21, 2000 mandating the television networks to begin providing Descriptive Video, docket no. 99339. This decision clearly establishes a course of action which will grant those of us who are blind much greater access to this medium. I am, therefore, submitting comments in opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

To a person who is blind or visually impaired, watching television is not as one older sighted friend supposed "just like we used to listen to the old radio shows". I have become increasingly aware that this medium relies heavily on what can be communicated visually. Settings, costumes, the nonverbal reactions of characters all contribute substantially to the greater power of what this medium can convey.

What have I done in the absence of Video Description? At times, I have attempted to draw some inferences based on dialogue or, in the absence of dialogue, I might ask a friend or family member, if available, to attempt to describe the action. But, more often than not I have avoided television and while some might suppose this to be a positive conclusion, the truth is that television is an integral part of our culture with great potential for informing, as well as, entertaining.

From my perspective as an individual who is blind, I can only tell you that the service is truly worthwhile and appreciated. I would ask you to remember that the single disadvantage of blindness, at its core, is simply to live in the absence of information provided by the sense of sight. For those of us who are blind television viewers, Descriptive Video effectively fills in the information gaps allowing us the opportunity to share in the experience of this highly visual medium. It is, therefore, unconscionable that individuals blind or visually impaired should be excluded from the fullest possible access to television.

It is understandable why the television, cable, and movie industries would submit a petition for reconsideration of the Video Description ruling, but it is personally appalling and revolting that a national organization of the blind would join them. It is most obvious that the National Federation of the Blind is not in touch with the majority of the blind population on this issue. Furthermore, the petitioners for reconsideration have provided no new information not already available to Commissioners at the time of the ruling. I ask you to, therefore, deny their petition for reconsideration.

Your review and consideration of my comments are most deeply appreciated.

Regards,
Tony Swartz

Tony B. Swartz

1944 Girard Ave
Allentown PA 18104-1114

Home phone# (610) 799-4565
Work phone# (610) 782-3627

Home Email: tonyswartz@fast.net
Work email: tonyswartz@lehighcounty.org

Anne Fesh

From: LHar007@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2000 6:14 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: (no subject)

To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my appreciation to the Commissioners fo the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind, and visually impaired. As a blind person, it is important for myself, and all visually impaired people who cannot see the screen to have this alternate means (i.e., video description). In respect to Docket No. 99-339 I would like to voice my opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported on video description. Thank you.....Respectively Submitted,

JoAnne Taylor (per Lewis Harrell)

1616 Summit St

Springfield, Ohio

Anne Fesh

From: N6nji@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2000 10:58
To: Access@fcc.gov
Cc: info@acb.o4t
Subject: Docket No. 99-339

GENTLEMEN,

I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO THE VOTE REQUIRING THE NETWORKS TO BEGIN ESSENTIAL INFORMATION SERVICE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

I APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT THE COMMISSIONERS COURAGEOUS VOTE REQUIRING THE NETWORKS TO BEGIN PROVIDING THIS TO US.

I AM A BUSINESS OWNER AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I AM ABLE TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF THE NEWS SHOWS THAT I WATCH ON A DAILY BASIS, BECAUSE THIS GIVES ME INFORMATION REGARDING INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES. THE MORE I UNDERSTAND IN NEWS PROGRAMMING, THE BETTER I AM IN HELPING MY CLIENTS.

THE VIDEO DESCRIPTION WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT FOR ME AND OTHERS IN MY SITUATION.

THE PETITIONERS DID NOT INFORM US THAT THEY HAD PETITIONED THE FCC TO MAKE THIS CHANGE.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT I, LIKE MANY OTHERS ARE ABLE TO BE ABLE TO USE THIS VALUABLE TOOL.

I AM SENDING THIS E-MAIL IN OPPOSITION TO THE PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

11/1/2000

I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE MY E-MAIL INTO CONSIDERATION
AND IF YOU
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL ME AT MY OFFICE AT (760) 946-1109
OR E-MAIL
ME AT N6NJI@AOL.COM.

I SINCERELY APPRECIATION YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS VERY
IMPORTANT MATTER.

SINCERELY,

TERRI ANN TAYLOR

Anne Fesh

From: sothis1@juno.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2000 9:11 AM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org; info@nfb.org
Subject: FCC Support Appreciation

FCC Secretary Margalie Salas

Dear Ms. Salas,
I'm very glad that the FCC voted in July to continue providing Video Description for blind and visually impaired people. I refer to Docket No. 99-399.

In this letter I submit comments IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

Why the media-entertainment-info-tainment industry filed a petition to reconsider audible video description for the blind and visually-impaired is beyond my comprehension...

Why should they NOT want greater access to another viable market? If headsets with audio-description were provided by the motion picture industry for major film releases and ADVERTISED the accessible format for blind and visually impaired patrons, they could sell more seats to movie goers.

Loss of vision is the most ISOLATING factor of my adult life. I do however go out to see the occasional film, the one trans-gender-generational-racial cultural exchange medium of the workplace thesedays, to fit in. It would be NICE to know what's going on, on the screen when the plot is being advanced by visual cues I can no longer see. Instead of sitting ALONE in the dark, and wondering why everyone is gasping... or giggling... or cheering... in THEIR shared experience at a movie theatre. I remember what fun it used to be... And eagerly await the day it will be so again.

Please do all you can to support expanding audible access for blind and visually impaired Americans.

Sincerely,
Val Taylor

Anne Fesh

From: T2RANSKY@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2000 6:39 PM
To: access@fcc.gov; info@acb.org
Subject: VIDEO DESCRIPTION

Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: VIDEO DESCRIPTION (Docket No. 99-339)

This electronic letter is an "official filing" in OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

Dear Members of the FCC:

I would like to extend my gratitude to the FCC for your outstanding support and willingness to move television into the new century. Your vote requiring television networks to provide video description is WELL founded and much needed in this country.

It is critical that all means of communication, particularly television, be accessible to the blind and visually impaired in this country. We have closed captioning for the hearing impaired, it seems only fitting and just that a similar audio format be available for those individuals with sight loss. The technology exists TODAY to bring this medium into everyone's home, including those without sight. As the core technologies of television, telephone and computer networks begin to merge into a single communications medium it is vitally important that all citizens have an equal chance to participate and utilize the technology.

Please do NOT reconsider your decision to support and require video description. You made the right decision. The people and groups opposed to video description are NOT interested in equal access for all. They have an agenda that would relegate blind and visually impaired citizens to a separate group that would not be able to benefit from the expanding offerings on television. These groups have offered NO NEW information or complaints that would require the FCC to change its originally ruling.

Again, I applaud the FCC for taking the correct stand in support of video description and encourage the FCC to not reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,

Todd Turansky
PO Box 12064
Augusta, GA 30914

Anne Fesh

From: T. Turner [tturner@bedford.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2000 8:15
To: info@acb.org
Subject: RE Described video
November 5, 2000

Tom Turner

5062 Forest Ave.

Bedford, PA 15522

Magalie Sales, Secretary

The Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

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I would like to take this time to thank the FCC for its courageous vote requiring networks to provide important information to people who are visually impaired like me. I find that described video has really been a god send to me when I rent a video free of charge from the Library Of Congress. I would hope that you stand on your vote that you made on July 21st. This would mean as much to me as closed captioning means to the deaf. I find that when I try to spend time with my family watching TV some one has to describe what is going on the screen since I can only partially see the screen. I would like to conclude that the people petitioning to stop the described video have not provided any new information that was not already known at the time you made your courageous vote.

Respectfully yours:

Tom Turner

11/6/2000