

99-339

Dear Sir,

I AM VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF
BEGINNING DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO SERVICE
IN JANUARY 2002. I AM BLIND AND DO
NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE HEARING IMPAIRED
HAVE CAPTIONING TO HELP THEM AND THE
BLIND DO NOT. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE
BIG MONEY INTERESTS TO CHANGE YOUR PLAN
FOR BEGINNING D.V.S. IN 2002.

Sincerely,

James Bartels

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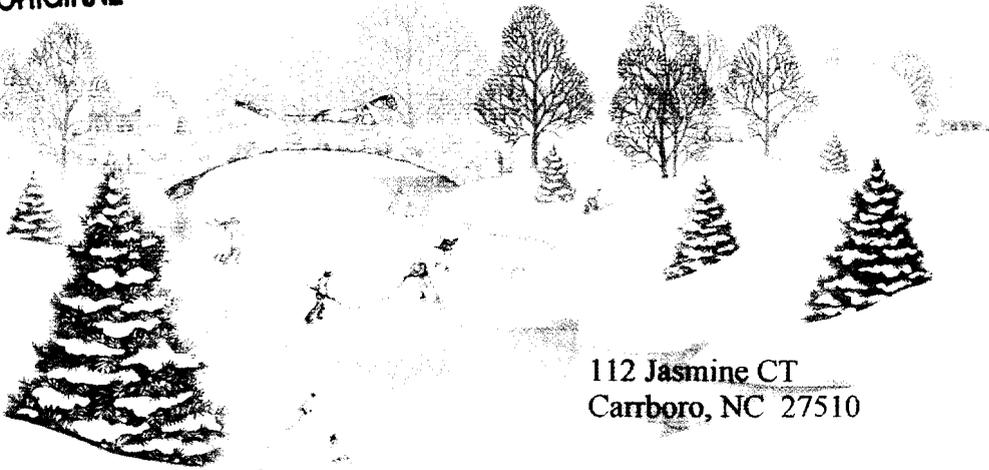
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NOV 13 2000

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112 Jasmine CT
Carrboro, NC 27510

RE: DOCKET NO. 99-339
Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Salas,

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

My family and I appreciate the FCC for your vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential service.

I have been trying to get it for many years. I was thrilled when I found reference to this service and have exhausted the few videos that use video description. My cable company Time Warner Cable does not provide video description even though my television is equipped for this service. Since I need cable in order to get reception, I must rely upon them to get video description.

The value of video description is the difference between having access to television and no access. Television without video description is of no use to the blind. It makes TV usable by the sight impaired and enriches their lives totally as well as serves as their primary source of news and information.

The numbers of sight impaired and blind are greater today than ever and increasing rapidly. My eye doctor just told me that he has large numbers of macular degeneration patients now whereas ten years ago he only had one or two patients with this disability.

Sincerely,
John O'Daly

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99-339

JIM FARRER

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**351 WINDY HILL ROAD
CENTRAL, SC 29630**

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NOV 13 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
C/O MAGALIE SALAS SECRETARY,
445 12TH STREET, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

DEAR COMMISSIONERS"

PLEASE ALLOW ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR DECISION ON JULY 21ST TO REQUIRE ALL NETWORKS TO PROVIDE DESCRIPTIVE VIDEOS ON TELEVISION.

I AM CERTAIN THAT ALL VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES ADMIRE YOU FOR YOUR DECISION. \\\

AS YOU CAN SEE BY MY CARD, I CONDUCT PROGRAMS FOR THE BLIND AT NO COST. I AM A LEGALLY BLINDED VETERAN WHO WAS TOTALLY BLIND FOR SOME 11 MONTHS, SO I KNOW WHAT DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO MEANS TO A BLIND PERSON. I HAVE LIVED IN BOTH WORLDS AND REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS.

THE FACT THAT THE NETWORKS ARE OPPOSING YOUR ACTIONS IS REASON ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU HOLD TO YOUR DECISSION, THEY ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN WHAT IT COSTS. THEY DON'T MIND MAKING COMMERCIALS LOUDER THAN THE ACTUAL PROGRAMS THAT THE COMMERCIALS SPONSOR.

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THE PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION BEING ASKED FOR BY TELEVISION, CABLE AND MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ARE FOR SELFISH REASONS. IF THEY WERE VISUALLY IMPAIRED, AS ARE MANY THOUSANDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS, THEY WOULDN'T CARE WHAT THE REASONS WERE; THEY WOULD JUST WANT THE DESCRIPTIVE VIDEOS.

I CONDUCT PROGRAMS FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND ALWAYS MENTION THE DESCRIPTIVE VIDEOS AND TELL THEM HOW ENJOYABLE THEY ARE. THESE VIDEOS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE U.S. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, BUT THEY ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. IT WOULD BE SO NICE TO SIT WITH YOUR FAMILY AND WATCH WHAT THEY ARE WATCHING RATHER THAN INTERRUPTING WITH A BUNCH OF QUESTIONS TO FIND OUT WHAT SO AND SO IS WEARING AND WHAT PROMPTED THIS OR THAT.

THIS LETTER OF COURSE IS IN SUPPORT OF YOUR ACTION ON JULY 21ST AND IN OPPOSITION TO RECONSIDERATION OF THAT ACTION.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR ACTION. PLEASE STAND FIRM!

RESPECTFULLY,


JIM FARRER

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REC'D
526 S. Lulwood Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802
11-7-00 NOV 13 2000

Magalie Salas, Sec.
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

To: Commissioners of the FCC:

This letter is in reference to Docket #990339, submitting comments in OPPOSITION TO PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

To begin, thank you for your votes to require networks to begin providing video description on a limited basis for the benefit of the blind and visually handicapped. This news was met with great joy and anticipation by the blind community. How can you even consider taking it away even before it began? Hopefully you will not be swayed from your original intent to provide this very essential service to the blind. It would be of great value to us. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty Chaffin

Betty Chaffin

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526 S Lullwood Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802
11-7-00

Magalie Salas, Sec.
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

To: Commissioners of the FCC:

This letter refers to Docket No. 990339, submitting comments for your consideration IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

First of all, thank you so much for your votes to require networks to begin providing video description for the benefit of those of us who are blind. We were still rejoicing over that decision when we learned of the "Petitions to Reconsider" being submitted to you by television, cable, & motion picture industries. We pray that you will not be swayed from your original intent of providing this essential information service to the blind. It would mean so much to us who try to enjoy television with our families. Video description is of great value to us. Please do not take it away even before we were allowed to have it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Merle Chaffin

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make it happen!

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NOV 18 2000

FCC

November 3, 2000

1801 N. Cottonwood
Iola, KS 66749
(316) 365-5116

100 Bloomquist
Burlingame, KS 66413
(785) 654-2416

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 00-217

Dear Commissioners:

Southwestern Bell of Kansas has made application before the Federal Communications Commission for approval to provide long distance service within the state. I would like to lend my support for that approval.

I am a believer in competition and feel that Southwestern Bell would prove to be a good competitor for long distance business in Kansas. Education's use of long distance services has expanded greatly with the use of technology. Competitive rates are essential to the various means of delivery.

The Kansas Corporation Commission has indicated that it will recommend that the FCC approve SBC's Kansas application. I hope that you will also support that application. I believe that the added competition will be beneficial to both educational institutions and the citizens of Kansas.

Sincerely,

John Masterson
President

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Kenneth M. Watterson
2831 West 86th Place
Chicago, IL 60652
(773) 925-0032
November 8, 2000

Federal Communications Commission
C/o Magalie Salas, Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket # 99-339

Dear Commissioners:

I'd like to commend all of you for the historic stand taken by the FCC on July 21st, and I hope that none of you will be swayed by any of the rhetoric contained in the petitions trying to get the FCC to rescind this July mandate. As a blind person who is constantly frustrated by unexplained lapses during "visual" communications, I heartily endorse your efforts to go forward in providing descriptive video TV – especially since descriptive video movies have been successful and popular for the last decade or so. To falter now and regress back to where we've been for so long would not only undermine the improvements we have made in the quality of life for the blind and visually-impaired, but also to mock the technological changes and breakthroughs within the TV industry itself.

In addition to our moving toward a high-definition TV society, you may want to point out to those who oppose descriptive video for TV that all of those "developments of, for or by the blind" have had a greater import for the able-bodied and other disabilities: cruise control, voice synthesis and/or activation, talking clocks and watches, voice activated personal and car cell phones and on-board car computer terminals.

Thank you for getting descriptive video for TV this far, and all of you can count on my continued support to advance the cause of providing descriptive video TV for the blind and visually-impaired.

Sincerely yours,


Kenneth M. Watterson

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11-07-00
Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Docket No. 99-339

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NOV 13 2000

Dear Commissioners,

I am quoting a letter written by Steven Gastreich of: 10727 W. Grantosa Dr. Wauwatosa, WI 53222. I fully support Mr. Gastreich's position with regard to video description for network television programming. As his sister, I am hoping that my letter of support will help Steven and other blind individuals enjoy descriptive video in watching network television.

"The purpose of this correspondence is to submit comments "in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description".

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Federal Communications Commission for this crucial and courageous vote in support of video description regarding network programming.

Since childhood, I have enjoyed many hours in front of the television. However, to enjoy these programs completely, I have to rely on family and friends to provide the visual details. Often, there are times when I watch television alone or with other blind friends. Unfortunately, in this case, the visual aspects are left to the imagination. Nothing is more frustrating than watching a favorite program or lengthy movie only to discover that questions regarding the outcome of the plot can only be answered by sight. In this case, all we can do as a blind community is long for the "Golden Days of Radio" when blind and sighted alike were on an equal playing field in obtaining all the information on a particular program.

So, I could not have been happier when I learned that both Hollywood movies and Public Television had begun using Descriptive Video Service "DVS". Because of this, I have appreciated true independence in experiencing programs that I choose to view. In learning about these advances, along with "Closed captioning" for deaf and hard of hearing viewers, I had hoped that Network Television's accommodation of Descriptive Video would not be far behind.

Now, I am eagerly waiting for April of 2002 when I can finally enjoy Network television the way I had always dreamed. I want to stress here that I feel that video description's importance should go further than simply the program being aired, but also when there is important information on the screen. How many times have I heard an announcer refer to "the number on your screen". Or, even more importantly, when there are important messages such weather warnings which are only accessible to sighted viewers. It is my hope that once again, like in the early days of radio, that in regarding television, we as a blind community will have equal access with our sighted counterparts.

Thank you again for this very important vote."

Christine Gastreich
10727 W. Grantosa Dr.
Wauwatosa, WI 53222
(414) 464-1756
cgastreich@yahoo.com

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11-07-00
Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Docket No. 99-339

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Dear Commissioners,

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Thank you again for this very important vote."

Madeline Gastreich

Madeline Gastreich
10727 W. Grantosa Dr.
Wauwatosa, WI 53222
(414) 464-1756
maddieg@valpakwi.com

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Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Docket No. 99-339

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NOV 13 2000

Dear Commissioners,

FCC MAIL ROOM

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Thank you again for this very important vote."



Robert Gastreich
10727 W. Grantosa Dr.
Wauwatosa, WI 53222
(414) 464-1756

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

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Docket No. 99-339

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Thank you again for this very important vote.

Sincerely,

Steven Gastreich

10727 W. Grantosa Dr.

Wauwatosa, WI 53222
(414) 464-1756
briansg@execpc.com

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NOV 13 2000
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Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554
Docket No. 99-339

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Thank you again for this very important vote."

Leona Kramlich

Leona Kramlich
2825 N. 52nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53210

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912 North Hawley Road, No. 211
Milwaukee, WI 53213
November 6, 2000

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This letter concerns Docket No. 99-339.

I am submitting comments in opposition to PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON Video Description.

First, I want to tell you how much I appreciate your courageous vote which requires the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind or visually impaired.

This service would mean much to me because it gets rather frustrating to be watching a movie or program and there are long periods without any talking with just music in the background. This also would help when there are memos at the bottom of the screen giving storm warnings. They just have a series of beeps currently, unless the news breaks with storms nearer comes in. I was looking forward to having access to this service in April, 2002.

Video description would mean a lot. Also, the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

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Patricia Keating



Sally Robran
912 N. Hawley Rd
Milwaukee, Wis. 53210

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To whom it may concern,

This letter concerns Docket No. 99-339.

I am submitting comments in opposition to
Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported
Order on video description

I appreciate your vote which requires the
networks to begin providing this essential
information service to people who are blind
or visually impaired

Recently, I became totally blind, and
it would help immensely to have descriptive
video. I have seen descriptive movies of
more recent films & where there is no
dialogue, the description helps.

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Thank you very much for your consideration
in this matter.

Sincerely,
Sally Robran

Sally Robran

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

NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

11/2/00

RE: Docket No. 99-339

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

Please uphold the July 21st ruling of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on providing video description for television programming. As a blind rehabilitation therapist, I know how much the visually impaired persons with whom I work appreciate the audiodescription they have experienced at audio-described theatre shows or on audiodescribed video-tapes during their rehabilitation program at the Western Blind Rehabilitation Center. I believe that, just as the hearing impaired have closed captioning, so should persons with sight loss also have access to television audio-description be available to the blind and visually impaired.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. Please stick by your decision and do not bow to the petitioners among whom are the TV, cable, and motion picture industry associations.

Sincerely,



SCOTT S. ROBINSON

777 SAN ANTONIO RD, #69
PALO ALTO, CA., 94303

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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,

Russell Kersh

*BLIND PERSONS SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED
TO AUDIO BOOKS FOR ENTERTAINMENT.*

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From Edwin Rumsey and Catherine Gleitz 1601 South Shepherd No. 148
Houston Texas 77019 H. Ph. 713 524 7265 W. PH. 713 512 4921

FCC. Official Filings Docket NO. 99 339

To Magaile Salas Secretary The Federal Communications Commission 445 12
TH. Street South West Washington DC.20554

Thank You for your coragious vote on July 21, 2000 for the implementation of Audio Description on Comercial TV beginning on April 20002. At the present time Audio Description is only available on our Educational Channel 8. For a Blind person Audio Description fills in the missing elements such as facial expressions ,senery changes as well as bridging the gaps in the story by painting pictures with verbal description. TV shows on Channel 8 that have Audio Description include The American Experience, Nature, Building Big and Nova as well as Master Piece Theater . I look forward in turning on my TV in April 20002 with Audio discription and being able to watch prime time tellavision special shows such as The accodamey Awards, Olympic Pagentery as well as other specials with Audio Description on a equal par of hearing impared persons receiving Closed Captioning. There is no need to revisit this issue RE Audio Description since the facts for its need have been made perfectley clear.

Thanks again hopeing to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, Edwin Rumsey and Catherine Gleitz



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11/08/00

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

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Re: Docket No. 99-339

I am a sighted citizen who have ^{been} heavily involved in volunteering of behalf of our blind/sight impaired citizens and from my heart I speak harshly against the opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. I understand that mentioned petitions for reconsideration are being submitted by television, cable and motion picture industry associations and by the National Federation of the Blind. On behalf of my many blind/sight impaired friends, I personally thank the commissioners of the FCC for your very brave ^{note} requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. It appears that the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. I consider this to be a crucial component of any petition to reconsider.

My personal involvement with many blind/sight impaired citizens gives me a first hand vision ^{of} the true need of an alternative means (video description) allowing them to know what is going on on television. There is no doubt that these precious and very often forgotten citizens are entitled to enjoy video description and know that in April, 2002, they can turn on their TV and enjoy programs with their family and friends and have access to the video description to help them understand the visual aspects of the ~~of the~~ programming.

A concerned citizen who has many blind/sight impaired friends.

Sincerely,

Joan Adcock
Joan Adcock

22 Deer Island Road
Woodcanyon Waters
Mabank, Texas 75147
phone - 903-451-3502
fax - 903-451-2657

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NOV 13 2000

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

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Madam Secretary:

I am writing you regarding the ruling of the FCC which will provide video description for television programming in the future. This ruling is of great importance to me since I am blind and would find this improvement to be of great benefit. My use of television will be much more beneficial if this new technique is installed.

I urge you on behalf of all those citizens who are visually handicapped, to continue with this issue until your plan has been initiated.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,


Virginia C. Fitzsimmons
#2 Victory Lane
Leetsdale, PA 15056
November 7, 2000

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JUDY CATCHPOLE
Superintendent of Public Instruction



Wyoming
Department of Education

307-672-6129

Jerry Baker
Services for the Visually Impaired
2161 Coffeen Avenue, #6
Sheridan, WY 82801

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NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

November 7, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter is to submit my comments IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION, DOCKET NUMBER 99-339. I commend the commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the television networks to begin providing this essential descriptive video information service to people who are blind and visually impaired, beginning in April of 2002. It has come to my attention, however, that this ruling by the FCC on July 21st, 2000 is being petitioned for reconsideration. I am adamantly opposed to these petitions. It is imperative that this ruling be implemented in its original form.

As a visually impaired person with many blind and visually impaired clients, I know first hand how important it is for anyone who cannot see a television to have an alternate means such as video description in order to know what is happening on the screen. It has been a long standing source of frustration for literally thousands of us with vision problems to be constantly deprived of access to the same televised information as sighted people have. Many of us have been eagerly looking forward to the day in April of 2002 when we can turn on our television sets and be able to understand for the first time the visual aspects of the programming.

In closing, I wish to point out that the petitioners have not provided any new information that was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. In view of this, I urge you to take the necessary steps to ensure that this important ruling, which will provide essential video description of television programs to blind and visually impaired viewers, will stand firm and continue forward.

Respectfully yours,

Jerry R. Baker

Jerry R. Baker, Consultant

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NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

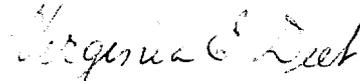
Dear Madam Secretary:

I have just recently heard about your ruling of July 21st regarding the provision of video description for television programming in the future. Since my daughter is blind, I am very interested and grateful that this change has been proposed,

The limitations of the visually impaired makes television viewing poor at best, since much is missed in not being able to see the TV screen. Since my daughter lives alone, she has no one to describe the action on the screen and thus, misses much of program content. Video description will make her TV viewing much more beneficial.

Thank you for these efforts and my hope is that in the not too distant future all our visually impaired citizens will have this benefit to enhance their TV viewing.

Very truly yours,



Virginia E. Deet
11353 Azalea Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

RE: Docket #99-339
November 7, 2000

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305 Adair Av
Longwood, FL 32750

RE: DOCKET NO. 99-339
Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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NOV 13 2000
FCC

Dear Secretary Salas,

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

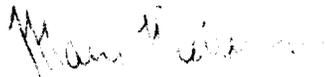
My family and I appreciate the FCC for your vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential service.

I have been trying to get it for many years. I was thrilled when I found reference to this service and have exhausted the few videos that use video description. My cable company Time Warner Cable does not provide video description even though my television is equipped for this service. Since I need cable in order to get reception, I must rely upon them to get video description.

The value of video description is incalculable. It makes TV usable by the sight impaired and enriches their lives immeasurably as well as serves as their primary source of news and information.

The numbers of sight impaired and blind are greater today than ever and increasing rapidly. My eye doctor just told me that he has large numbers of macular degeneration patients now whereas ten years ago he only had one or two patients with this disability.

Sincerely,
Mary Nicholson



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

RECEIVED

NOV 13 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

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,

Ada Bailey

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

RECEIVED
NOV 13 2000
FCC MAIL ROOM

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.

Edna S. Neckard
Sincerely,

P.S. My sister was always a very independent person; now that she has lost most of her eyesight she has to depend on other people. Anything that can be done to give these people back their dignity; we owe it to them.

Thank you

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

November 3, 2000

Dear Ms. Salas,

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NOV 13 2000

FCC WASH DC

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.

Harold E. Decker

Sincerely,

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NOV 13 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

702 Ash ST #100
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: DOCKET NO. 99-339
Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Salas,

99-339

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

My family and I appreciate the FCC for your vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential service.

I have been trying to get it for many years. I was thrilled when I found reference to this service and have exhausted the few videos that use video description. My cable company Time Warner Cable does not provide video description even though my television is equipped for this service. Since I need cable in order to get reception, I must rely upon them to get video description.

The value of video description is the difference between having access to television and no access. Television without video description is of no use to the blind. It makes TV usable by the sight impaired and enriches their lives in all respects as well as serves as their primary source of news and information.

The numbers of sight impaired and blind are greater today than ever and increasing rapidly. My eye doctor just told me that he has large numbers of macular degeneration patients now whereas ten years ago he only had one or two patients with this disability.

Sincerely,
Lane Campbell

Lane Campbell

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