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DeAnna Noriega  
P.O. Box 1104  
Manitou Springs, CO 80829-1104  
Thursday November 9, 2000

NOV 14 2000

ROOM

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

Dear Ms Salas,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the July ruling by the FCC Docket No. 99-339, requiring that descriptive video be made available to the visually impaired on television. I have been totally blind since I was eight years of age and have very much enjoyed the descriptive video movies I have purchased for use by my family. Even my sighted spouse has found that he gains a clearer understanding of complex stories when the narration points out things he might have missed. I know it must be confusing to you when an organization purporting to represent the blind is one of the signers of the petitions to rescind the July ruling. I assure, you they don't speak for me and a lot of other visually impaired people. The NFB has had a long history of denial of the challenges facing blind people. They would like to believe that blindness is just a nuisance and that with proper training blind people can do everything any one else can do. Unfortunately, no matter how closely I listen, I can't determine exactly which character is striking another or even if a new one has arrived on the scene unless they announce the fact verbally. Television with a lot of action and little dialogue is almost completely obscure to me. As a responsible adult, I would like to monitor what the children in my care are being exposed to and can't do it effectively without more information. Thank you again for your courageous stand.

Sincerely,  
DeAnna Noriega

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Albert W. Travers Jr.  
14504 E. Hawaii Place  
Aurora, CO 80012-5745

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Nov. 05, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 99-339

I am writing this letter in OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

I truly thank the commissioners for recognizing the need for mandating the television networks to provide video description to a portion of the American society which has been at a disadvantage with the visual medium. It seems to me that technology has enabled other people of our society access to the TV programming and makes sense to include all people to be able to watch television programs as any public medium should.

I have been able to watch a few described videos in the past few years and can tell you it made a world of difference in understanding what was happening in the scene which enabled me to get the most out of the story.

I do not believe the petitioners can logically establish any new information which was not available at the time the FCC made it's decision to require VIDEO DESCRIPTION by the TV Networks.

Again, I thank the commissioners for their look at the future of our society and desiring inclusion of all people as technology has allowed thus far.

Sincerely



Albert W Travers Jr.

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DIRK KEMPTHORNE  
*Governor*

November 9, 2000

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

# STATE OF IDAHO COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED

341 W. WASHINGTON ST.  
P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0012  
(208) 334-3220  
FAX (208) 334-2963

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**FCC MAIL ROOM**



Dr. Michael Graham  
*Interim Administrator*

RE: Descriptive Video Comments = MM Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas,

Descriptive videos have been a part of a number of blind people's lives across this nation for several years now. Their impact, for the most part, has been very positive. As a blind individual and a professional in the field of blindness I am in strong support of descriptive videos.

Some individuals in the blind community feel that it is most important to address essential information such as 800 numbers on television screens and the like that are often not announced before addressing the current emphasis in descriptive videos. In my opinion, an increase in descriptive videos in any area raises the awareness of the need for descriptive videos in all areas where meaningful information is not presented in an auditory manner for the blind.

As a parent of two young children who are not blind the first descriptive video I ever experienced was Dumbo. Though this video was not meaningful to me as an individual the ability to sit with my children and hear portions of the video with description enhanced my ability and my children's ability to enjoy the video together. Often while watching videos with my wife she is required to explain one event or another, whereas with the descriptive video she needs to offer no explanations. I am a strong proponent of descriptive videos whether its movies, documentaries, advertisements on TV, and any form to better display information in an audio format for blind individuals.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Michael Graham  
Administrator

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Benita Shor  
202 Park Avenue

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Madison, NJ 07940-1128  
NOV 14 2000

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November 8, 2000

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

Re: Docket No. 99-339

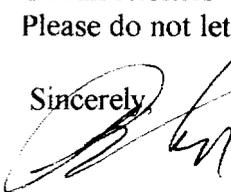
Dear Ms. Salas:

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

I was thrilled when the Commissioners voted so courageously to require the networks to begin providing video description. My mother was completely blinded in 1988 so I fully appreciate what an essential service this is to the blind and visually impaired. The limited offerings to date (thank goodness for PBS!) have really made a difference in her ability to fully participate in the world around her. A more complete schedule of enhanced programming would do much to break down the sense of isolation suffered by so many of the visually impaired.

The petitioners have not provided any new information not previously considered at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. I can only trust that the Commissioners will, therefore, take the most reasonable approach and deny this petition. Please do not let me down.

Sincerely,



Benita Shor

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Kathleen Gasper  
22 Myrtle St.  
Watertown MA 02472  
November 9, 2000

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

As a totally blind person, I am incensed at the petition recently submitted to the FCC by various television industry entities and the National Federation of the Blind.

It was a long, hard, THOUGHTFUL decision that the FCC made back in July, mandating limited video description of some prime time shows, with priority given to emergency announcements to begin soon.

As nearly as I can see in reading these newly submitted petitions, there is no new information presented.

Until WGBH started doing some regular video description of their programming, I never knew exactly how much I was missing. For example, try watching one of PBS's prize winning "Nature" shows with a blindfold on. Not much fun, is it? It still excites me to think that I can watch such programs by myself without the usually insufficient descriptive attempts of family or friends.

I can't even begin to describe the thrill of watching "TITANIC" with description, which was the very first run movie in a real theater, which everyone else takes for granted!  
The broadcast industry has had more than enough time to augment these mandated changes as the technology already exists.

I will never be able to understand a consumer organization fighting against something that will make life better for their consumers.

Please do not allow these wrong thinking groups to persuade you, the Commissioners, to overturn your original well thought out decision.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Gasper

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NOV 14 2000

636 North Ave. 2.B.  
Mt. Vernon, NY 10552  
November 8, 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Attention: Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Magalie Salas:

This letter is in regard to Docket 99-339,  
The following comments are **"IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR  
RECONSIDERATION FOR THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO  
DESCRIPTION."**

As a concerned, caring parent/educator/consumer who is blind, I was so appreciative and delighted to see the excellent progress which was made by FCC commissioners on the July vote regarding the new regulations for described networks scheduled to begin in April, 2002.

Having visual parts of a program professionally described is providing us with a vast amount of new and valuable information, information which is automatically known to everyone else.

I mentioned all of my above roles as they all reflect on how our TV media is used. It is not only an important form of entertainment, but also can be an effective educational tool, with a multitude of instant information. By having the addition of what's happening on the screen gives much more depth and worth to the program.

If you do not have a vision problem yourself, try "watching" a program without looking at it even for a moment. Then, watch it again with your eyes, and note how much you missed!!

Please note that the petitioners against these regulations have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling.

Sincerely,

Audrey Schading

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FCC MAIL ROOM

William Orester  
5416 So. 31st Street Ct.  
Lincoln, Ne 68516  
Nov. 5, 2000

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

RE: Doc. No. 99-339 Video Description

Dear Ms. Salas:

I as a blind person, wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to the commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission for their courageous action on July 21, 2000, in issuing their ruling to require video description by television, cable and motion picture industries commencing in April, 2002. As you know, closed captioning has been provided to the deaf and hearing impaired for several years with great success. It is gratifying to know that the Fcc recognizes the fact that the blind and visually impaired is entitled to the same consideration.

I have enjoyed the limited video description available to me, and firmly believe that such a service will greatly enhance the entertainment and educational value of television to the blind and visually impaired as well as to our seniors and others who are not classed as visually impaired, but who may have difficulty enjoying everything that may be presented by television and other forms of entertainment and education.

Unfortunately, I have recently learned that television networks, cable companies, movie producers and others have filed petitions for reconsideration with the Federal Communications Commission. It is extremely difficult for me to understand why companies which are able to spend billions of dollars for sports presentations and similar activities but, at the same time, complain about the comparatively tiny amount required to provide video description. In any event, the petitions to reconsider the Commission's previous ruling contain no information which was not presented prior to the action on July 21, 2000.

Please accept this letter as my filing in opposition to the petitions to reconsider which have been filed with the Commission. I trust the Commission will hold firm on this matter and will enter a ruling reaffirming its action providing video description beginning in April, 2002.

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Your continued affirmative action on this matter will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Orester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

William Orester.

cc: Charles Crawford, American Council of the Blind  
FCC Disability Rights Office

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Re: Docket # 99-339

November 7, 2000

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

Dear Sirs:

I would like to thank the Commissioners of the FCC for your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming by April, 2002.

As a member of the Helen Keller Services for the Blind Senior Center in Huntington, LI, I urge you to stand firm on your ruling and to continue forward in your efforts toward television programming for the blind and visually impaired viewers. It is extremely important for all of us who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means of knowing what's happening on the television. I am looking forward to turning on my television set in April, 2002, and enjoying television shows with my family and friends and to use the video description to help me to understand the visual aspects of the programming.

In conclusion, I would hope that you will not reconsider your ruling of July 21<sup>st</sup>. Video description of television programs will help all of us with visual impairments really enjoy the programs we watch.

Sincerely,

*Freeda W. ...  
of Bayberry Rd  
Huntington, NY 11743*

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NOV 14 2000

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Re: Docket # 99-339

November 7, 2000

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

Dear Sirs:

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In conclusion, I would hope that you will not reconsider your ruling of July 21<sup>st</sup>. Video description of television programs will help all of us with visual impairments really enjoy the programs we watch.

Sincerely,

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*Sharon L. ...*

*... 11/10/00*

*... 11/10/00*

11743

9F  
11/10

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Re: Docket # 99-339

November 7, 2000

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

Dear Sirs:

I would like to thank the Commissioners of the FCC for your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming by April, 2002.

As a member of the Helen Keller Services for the Blind Senior Center in Huntington, LI, I urge you to stand firm on your ruling and to continue forward in your efforts toward television programming for the blind and visually impaired viewers. It is extremely important for all of us who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means of knowing what's happening on the television. I am looking forward to turning on my television set in April, 2002, and enjoying television shows with my family and friends and to use the video description to help me to understand the visual aspects of the programming.

In conclusion, I would hope that you will not reconsider your ruling of July 21<sup>st</sup>. Video description of television programs will help all of us with visual impairments really enjoy the programs we watch.

Sincerely,

*Anna Finkelstein*

*19 Pine Hollow Lane*

*Greenlawn, NY*

*11740*

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NOV 14 2000

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KEEP ONE COPY ORIGINAL

7019 NESummer ST  
Portland, OR, 97211  
Nov. 6, 2000

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

Mrs Magalie Sales: RE: Docket No. 99-339

Please convey my great delight upon hearing that the FCC has passed a ruling July 21-2000 to provide video description for television programming in the future (April 2002) for blind and visually impaired viewers.

I have seen several movies with video description which our Oregon State Library for Blind and Visually Impaired puts out and they are a great success.

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I thank you for making the "Close Caption for the Deaf" available.

that is surely a God send to them.  
I am assuming that FCC had a part  
in that decision also.

I understand that you have re-  
ceived "Petitions To Reconsider" your  
July 21-2000 decision on providing tele-  
vision video descriptions. I suggest that  
you take a good look at the persons or  
companies who are sending you these  
"Petitions". The "companies" are quite well  
off and do not wish to share with others  
who have less. The "persons" who object  
to your decision of July 21 are people who  
do not like to admit that they are blind or  
low visioned.

I am looking forward to April, 2002 when  
I can take my nose off my television screen  
and sit back and enjoy descriptive video.  
Stick to your guns, you've made the right choice.  
Most sincerely, Imogene E. Nifon

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65 Bradshaw Street  
Medford, MA 02155-4846  
November 6, 2000

NOV 14 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

Dear Magalie:

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

The Docket No. is 99-339.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous July vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. I am a totally blind person who has had the privilege of watching several movies with video description. I cannot tell you how much it has enhanced my viewing of visual aspects of the films. Prior to video description, I would have to rely on friends or family to describe action in parts where there was no dialogue. Many a time I was left to only wonder or guess.

With video description, I am able to receive the information seen by my sighted peers.

With descriptive video service (DVS), I have a greater appreciation and understanding of the movie or television program content. I am pleased that public broadcasting has made several of its programs available through DVS.

I am really looking forward to having this same service available through the means of commercial and cable television. We as blind persons are entitled to the same information that the general public sees. This includes weather alerts or emergency advisories.

I also hope that advertisers of products will include audio telephone number announcements of what is displayed on the screen.

I look forward to the day when I will be able to watch comedies, dramas and movies with video description. Since broadcasters have provided "closed captioning" for the deaf, I thank the FCC for recognizing that those of us with a visual disability deserve similar access.

To date, the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known when the FCC reached its July, 2000 ruling.

Thank you once again for your support of video description services.

Sincerely,

Donna Fanelle

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M I A M I  
**LIGHTHOUSE**  
F O R T H E B L I N D

Vernon Metcalf, ACU  
Executive Director

NOV 14 2000

Ramon Casas  
President

FCC MAIL ROOM

November 6, 2000

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D. Alan Nunez  
First Vice President

Michele Barthe  
Second Vice President

Donna Bloustein, J.D., LL.M.  
Secretary

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

Alfredo G. Youtr, Esq.  
Treasurer

Susan P. Kelley  
Immediate Past President

Re: Docket #99-339

Donna Aboud  
Kurt Adler

Dear Secretary Saias:

Horacio S. Aguirre  
Victor Alvarez, Esq.

On behalf of visually impaired persons I emphasize our appreciation to the FCC Commissioners for their July 21 ruling that provides video description for television programming. Sound reasoning supports this position and I commend the commissioners for their courageous decision. As a sighted person, I find video description a very special enhancement to my own viewing. Visually impaired persons deserve the fullest possible access to TV and I trust the commission will hold firm with this wise decision.

Carlos J. Arhona  
Karl Bishopric

John Bitter  
Thomas B. Braily

Nicholas J. DeFiorio, Esq.  
Willis H. Flick, Esq.

Gary D. Fox, Esq.  
Adalbert Friedhoff

Peter K. Harrison  
John Henderson

William G. Heuston, III, D.  
J. Megan Kelly

Rolando Kohen, M.D.  
Jack N. Mandel

I sincerely hope that the FCC Commission denies petitions for reconsidering the ruling that requires television networks to begin video description of significant TV programs by April, 2002. Thank you.

Pedro J. Martinez-Fraya, Esq.  
Dennis McCarty

W. Siban McCrea  
Reginaid R. McKinney, M.D.

James F. Morgan III, Esq.  
Charles Nelson

Thomas M. Romanet  
Philip Rosenthal, M.P.

H. J. Ross  
Donald J. Sackler

Sincerely yours,

Vernon Metcalf

Steven B. Stern  
Barbara Weintraub

HONORARY  
B. B. Golostein

John J. Grundhouser, Esq.  
Carter W. Hopkins, Jr.

James K. Krach, Esq.  
William L. Morrison

John O. Neal  
Anna K. Rantz

Legal Counsel  
Louis Nestro, Esq.

Michael Silva, Esq.

jhb

Legal Counsel Emeritus  
Preston L. Prevint, Esq.

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The Florida Association of Workers for the Blind, Inc.  
601 Southwest 8th Avenue • Miami, Florida 33130 • (305) 856-2288 FAX: 285-6967  
www.miamilighthouse.com • E-mail: mialight@gate.net

Sponsored in part by the Division of Blind Services and the State of Florida, Department of Labor and Employment Security. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Div. of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within Florida, (800) 435-7352. Federal I.D. # 59-0637847.



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1944 Girard Ave.  
Allentown Pa. 18104-1114

November 4, 2000

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

14-3

99-339

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

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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

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November 9, 2000

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

Re: Doc 99-339

Dear Ms Salas:

I would like to thank The Federal Communications Commission for the decision to include descriptive video on television programming. I definitely oppose the petition filed by The National Federation of the Blind.

I also would like to encourage television stations to announce everything written on the screen. Phone numbers, weather information, and all important numbers leave a totally blind listener/viewer completely lost.

Thank you for your attention in these matters.

Sincerely,

Robert Flanigan  
1348 Beverly Rd.  
Portvue, Pa. 15133

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Terry Joseph  
510 East Vine Street, Unit P  
Lodi, California 95240  
November 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I wish to thank the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers by April, 2002. Anyone who cannot see the screen should have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what is happening on the television. I am looking forward to turning on my television set in April, 2002, to enjoy television shows with family and friends and use the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

My comments are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. The petitioners have failed to provide any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. This is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider. The FCC ruling is a vital step in having television that is accessible to citizens who are blind and visually impaired.

Thank you very much for ensuring the July 21, 2000, ruling of the FCC on providing video description for television programming in the future will stand firm and continue forward.

Sincerely yours,

  
Terry Joseph

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Leonard Kerling  
1368 McNary Circle, Unit 7  
Manteca, California 95376  
November 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

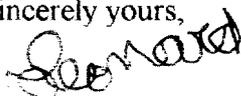
Dear Ms. Salas:

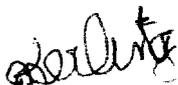
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Sincerely yours,

  
Leonard Kerling



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Ernest Martin, Jr.  
1943 South Monroe Street  
Stockton, California 95206  
November 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I wish to thank the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers by April, 2002. Anyone who cannot see the screen should have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what is happening on the television. I am looking forward to turning on my television set in April, 2002, to enjoy television shows with family and friends and use the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

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Sincerely yours,



Ernest Martin, Jr.

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Lorrie Robertson  
8855 South Priest Road  
French Camp, California 95231  
November 6, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I wish to thank the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers by April, 2002. Anyone who cannot see the screen should have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what is happening on the television. I am looking forward to turning on my television set in April, 2002, to enjoy television shows with family and friends and use the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

My comments are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. The petitioners have failed to provide any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. This is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider. The FCC ruling is a vital step in having television that is accessible to citizens who are blind and visually impaired.

Thank you very much for ensuring the July 21, 2000, ruling of the FCC on providing video description for television programming in the future will stand firm and continue forward.

Sincerely yours,

  
Lorrie Robertson

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Robert S. Slauson, Ph.D.  
416 Palm Avenue  
Lodi, California 95240  
November 6, 2000

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Robert S. Slauson, Ph.D.

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Linda Vocque.  
13500 Rindge Tract Island  
Stockton, California 95219  
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445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Linda Vocque

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