

NOV 16 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

From: Cynthia E. Lynn BSN, RN.
 Post Office Box 1758
 Petersburg, Alaska. 99833

RE: In opposition to Petitioners
 For Reconsideration of the Reported
 Order on Video Description.

Docket # 99-339,
 November 1, 2000

No. of Copies rec'd 0
 List ABCDE

Dear Commissioners,
 Please uphold your July
 21st ruling requiring television net-
 OVER →

1
works to provide video description by April 2002.

I am using my Marks Script Guide so I can get this urgent request in the mail. This Script Guide allows me to write in cursive, in straight lines even though I cannot see the letters. I hope it is legible.

Even as a teenager I could not read subtitles unless I was right on top of the TV set. When I read the subtitles I could not see the remainder of the screen. Of course I thought everyone saw as I did. In 1996 when I was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, the loss of peripheral sight explained this tunnel vision.

In spite of this I finished college and worked as an RN for twenty years.

In September 1994 was the first time I had to admit I could no longer see the TV to follow the story.

I now have to get all my cues from listening only. Trying to identify the characters by memorizing the voice at each ^{person} part. Environmental happenings are also a guess by using my ears. I have to identify sounds i.e. is that what a person falling would sound like?

Trying to see the story without sight is not fun. With long pauses without dialogue, ~~to~~ not being able to see the people, landscape, facial expressions, or sequence of action scenes makes it almost

impossible to follow the plot. My 3 children are so tired of my asking, "Who was that? what's happening?"

My first time to experience DVS was as a student at the Carroll Center For the Blind, in Newton, Massachusetts. While in the dormitory we were supplied DVS videos. For the first time I was able to enjoy a film. The DVS speaker explained, between speaking parts, a description of what the characters looked like, ~~explaining~~ the action is "he crosses the room, or with a look of rage on his face" etc

I also experienced DVS at a musical production of "Titanic" in Boston. The DVS speaker gave a brief introduction to the story, how the stage was set ^{up} and ^{up} and who sang this or sang this or

that and why. Even seated just behind the orchestra, I could see nothing. It was fun to enjoy the play thanks to DVS.

Television and movies are such a major part of our lives today. To not have the ability to enjoy it is a loss.

With DVS I can enjoy both. Being blind I need this accommodation.

Blindness is not just an inconvenience believe me. Sight loss affects every single aspect of a person's daily living, quality of life & recreation.

Presently I cannot drive anymore, cannot sail my sailboat, read a book in quiet, take photographs, hike, bicycle or fish. With my continued rehabilitation I shall find other interests to replace some activities I ^{and} ways to

accomodate such as learning Braille,
to read in peace & quiet and hiring a
sighted skipper for sailing. With my
Audible Computer I hope to return to the
workplace soon.

In the meantime I can enjoy the
latest videos thanks to Descriptive
Video Services. Where I live in Alaska
we currently do not have a DVS re-
ceiver or Radio Reading Service.

Thank you,
Cynthia E. Lynn RN.
Petersburg, Alaska

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

4539 Occidental Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street Southwest
Washington DC 20554

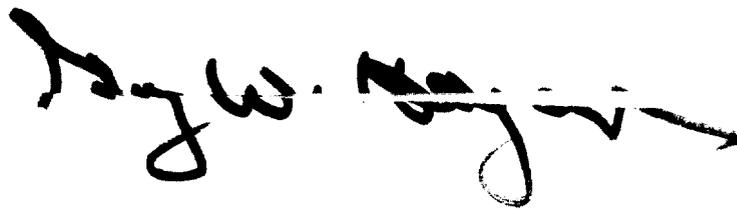
Docket 99-339
Comments in opposition to Petitioners for reconsideration of the
reported order on video description

Dear Commissioners:

I am a member of the Thursday Thinkers, a group of visually impaired and blind people who regularly meet at the Earle Baum Center of the Blind at Santa Rosa California. Your July ruling requiring the television networks to provide described video means a great deal to me and my visually impaired friends. This gives us the ability to know what is going on on the screen. This is very important to me.

I understand the petitioners for reconsideration have not given any new information that was not considered by the Commission in reaching its decision to require the descriptions.

Sincerely yours,



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Docket no. 99-339

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November 11, 2000

Attention

Magalie Salas

Secretary The Federal Communications Commission

455 12th Street, Sw

Washington Dc 20554

I am writting this letter to urge you to vote yes on the
escription vvido vcr tapes that are all ready being made.

I wish that you would make my television programs available
to the blind and visually impaired. There is a lot of
times that I would like to watch a movie but loose track
of what is going on in the movie and finally go to sleep
in the chair or go do something lse

Cordinally

Eva Kurtz

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Nov 10 2000

300 Bellevue Rd.
Quincy Ma 02171

To whom it may concern:

Thank you, Commissioners of the FCC.,
for your vote requiring essential provision
for the blind & visually impaired.

From my own point of view, it is very
sad to see someone blind or visually impaired
trying to comprehend what is going on on T.V.
when viewing with sighted people

It's not only entertainment that they are
short-changed on, but educational & quality
of life programs. We hope that by April 2002
video description will be required.

The docket number is 99-339

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These comments are in opposition to petitioners
for reconsideration of the reported order on
video description

Sincerely,
James J. McGurl

2033 Haste St. #215
Berkeley, CA 94704

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

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NOV 16 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

November 6, 2000

Dear Ms Salas:

I am writing to you today to express my appreciation for your decision to require networks to begin providing essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. I am visually impaired, and enjoy television very much. I never realized how much I missed until I was able to have access to the description that public television provides on a few of their programs. I also very much enjoy description on movies which can be purchased or borrowed from the public library in my area.

I am also in contact with a lot of elderly who have recently lost their vision and miss watching television very much. They do not have the knack of filling in the spaces where there is no dialog, as those of us who have been blind all our lives have to do. Some of them really feel a great loss of something they have enjoyed before losing their sight. This vote of yours will bring back a whole lot of enjoyment for a lot of people, and open up a whole new world for those who have never been able to actually see television. Having description on network programming would be wonderful. Thank you so very much for your vote to include those of us who do not see well, or at all, in the enjoyment of television. We are very much looking forward to April 2002.

I AM WRITING IN OPPOSITION TO THE PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDIO DISCTIPTION which you have received. The networks, producers and others involved in television do not realize what a large market they are excluding by not providing this service.

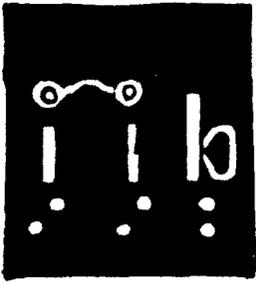
I strongly urge you to uphold your very positive decision regarding Docket #99-339. I am looking forward, as are all my friends, to April 2002. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,



Linda L. Amate
Member, of California Council of the Blind

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INDEPENDENCE
AND INFORMATION
FOR THE BLIND

Reply to:
Jeanne Hayes
Corresponding Secy.
8028 Carey Branch Place
Ft. Washington, MD 20744
301/567-6111

November 10, 2000

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

Re: Docket No. 99-339

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Dear Magali Salas:

I am writing on behalf of this organization of visually impaired persons.

We initially want to thank the FCC for their far-sighted and aggressive position in voting to require the networks to start to provide video description audio service starting in April, 2002. It is disheartening to think that anyone would want or need a reconsideration of such a ruling addressing such an obvious need.

It has been encouraging over the past few years to see efforts toward a greater awareness of the needs of handicapped persons with the ADA tending to concentrate on physically handicapped to a large extent. And the deaf have begun to be served with signing being included in many programs to help them better enjoy and understand the particular event. However, such efforts have not been as aggressive for those with visual impairment. We are grateful for those that have been made with greater use of Braille instructions where appropriate. But, these people have been deprived of one of the most significant of the senses -- the ability to see. Certainly they are entitled to whatever assistance can be afforded to give them the ability to enjoy as much of the world around them as possible.

So, we certainly support and applaud the initial ruling and trust that it will not in any way be diluted and that those with visual impairment can join their family and friends in full enjoyment of the programs offered.

Thank you for your efforts in making this happen.


Jeanne Hayes, Corresponding Secretary

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November 4, 2000

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

RE: Docket No. 99-339,
Official filing in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported
order on video description

Dear Secretary Salas:

Thank you and the rest of the Federal Communications Commission for the
courageous stand you took on July 21, 2000. Your ruling on video description,
coupled with your previous rulings on captioning for Deaf and hard-of-hearing
people, shows me that the FCC is truly committed to giving *all* Americans fair
access to entertainment as well as news and emergency information. Since many
of my friends are visually impaired, I cannot tell you how excited I am when I
think about April 2002.

The petitioners have not introduced any new information that was not
already known when you reached your previous decision. Do not let those with
clear political or financial motives keep you from doing what is right. Please
ensure that all people with visual impairments have equal access to television and
the movies.

The NFB and Television Corporations do not want the DVS ruling to be
mandatory because the cost can be prohibitive. Television and movie corporations
would not voluntarily make their programs accessible. If the July 21, 2000 ruling
is reversed, it will keep millions of blind persons from enjoying their favorite TV
programs or movies as fully as would their sighted counterparts. Please don't let a
minority affect the courageous stand you took on July 21, 2000.

Thank you in advance for your time,

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Mary Chalmer	Winthrop, MA
Deborah Poirier	Sudbury, MA
Leslie [unclear]	MEDFORD, MA
[unclear]	Medford MA

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2421 Mormon Trl, NW
Hesson, Mississippi
Nov 6, 2000

FCC

445 12th St, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Attn: Magalie Salas, Secretary

Re: Docket #99-339, Concerning Video
Description.

We appreciate very much your
past concern in connection with
video description in relation to the blind.

Please stand firm as you receive
pressure to reconsider your ruling
of July 21st.

It is important that the needs of
the blind and visually impaired be
considered; and who else can bring
this assistance about but you —

Most sincerely,
Christine Dickey,
Former Learning
Disorders Consultant

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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

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NOV 28 1999
FCC BUREAU

Thank You for your coragious vote on July 21, 2000 for the implementation of Audio Description on Comerical 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 hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, Edwin Rumsey and Catherine Gleitz



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Edwin Rumsey and Catherine Gleitz
601 South Shepherd, Suite #148
Houston, Texas 77019
H. Ph. (713) 524 7265
W. Ph. (713) 512 4921

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FCC. Official Filings Docket NO. 99 339

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12 TH. Street
South West Washington, DC.20554

To: Magaile Salas Secretary of The Federal Communications Commission

Thank You for your courageous vote on July 21, 2000 for the implementation of Audio Description on Commercial TV beginning on April 2002. 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 ,scenery 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 exclude The American Experience, Nature, Building Big and Nova as well as Master Piece Theater . I look forward in turning on my TV in April 2002 with Audio description and being able to watch prime time television special shows such as The academy Awards, Olympic Pageantry as well as other specials with Audio Description on a equal par of hearing impaired persons receiving Closed Captioning. There is no need to revisit this issue RE Audio Description since the facts for its need have been made perfectly clear.

Thank you again and hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,


Catherine Gleitz

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November 7, 2000

Mr. Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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NOV 16 2000

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Dear Mr. Salas:

IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION
AS A RECORDED ORDER OF VIDEO DESCRIPTION

99-339

the undersigned wishes to reaffirm the value of video description. The Petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the F.C.c. reached its decision and issued the ruling.

Very truly yours,

Lewis N. Danelsian

Lewis N. Danelsian
4249 D Colfax Avenue
Studio city, CA 91604

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November 7, 2000

Mr. Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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NOV 16 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Mr. Salas:

IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION
OF THE RECORDED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION

The undersigned wishes to reaffirm the value of video description. The Petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the F.C.C. reached its decision and issued the Ruling.

Very truly yours,

Maureen Rosset

Maureen Rosset
540 North Formosa Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036

99-339

:

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507 Honeysuckle St. N.
Salem, OR 97303
November 12, 2000

NOV 15 2000
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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

RE: Docket No. 99-339/ "IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION"

Dear Ms. Salas:

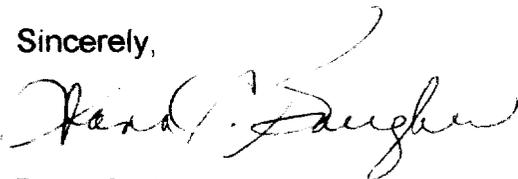
I am writing to urge you to assist the blind and visually impaired citizens of the United States.

It is very important for anyone who cannot see the television screen to have an alternate means, that is, video description, to know what is happening on the television.

Both my father-in-law and mother-in-law are visually impaired. These once fully contributing members of society are now individuals struggling with adjusting to the daily routines to sustain meaningful life since recently going blind. Wouldn't it be great for those who cannot see to sit down to relax, as those of us who have our vision. It is possible. Television is accessible for the blind and I encourage you to support the new technologies to give blind and visually impaired people the access to the same relaxation we enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dana C. Baugher

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Jim Shore
3800 North 45th Avenue
Hollywood, Fl. 33021

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November 9, 2000

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

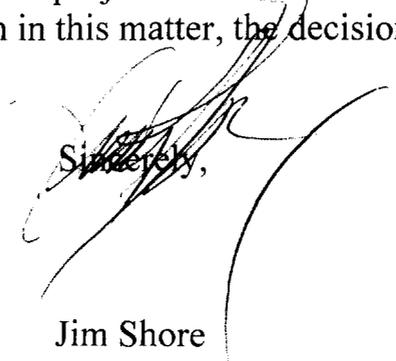
RE: DOCKET NO. 99-339

Dear Secretary Salas:

I would like to express my appreciation for your vote to require the networks to begin providing essential information to people who are blind and visually impaired via the video description project. This will be of great value in assisting me to enjoy television shows with my sighted friends and family.

I am submitting the following comments in opposition to petitions for reconsideration of the reported order on video description:

It would seem that since there is no new information from the petitioners in opposition to this project that was not known at the time that the FCC reached its decision in this matter, the decision to go forward with this project should continue.


Sincerely,

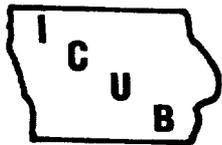
Jim Shore

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JS/cac

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DES MOINES CHAPTER



Iowa Council of the United Blind

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NOV 16 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

November 6, 2000

Mike Barber, President
Post Office Box 93641
Des Moines, IA 50393
515-263-1441

Magaile Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20054

RE: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of the Des Moines Chapter membership of the Iowa Council of the United Blind, a local affiliate of a statewide consumer organization, I am writing to oppose the petitions filed for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

As a blind person, I can tell you that having video described television programs and movies is wonderful. We here in the Des Moines area are very pleased with the results of the ruling made earlier this summer on described programming to commence in April 2002. This would be a giant step forward for blind people throughout the country to enable more independence.

Consider this. If you were to go to a movie with a blind friend and had to spend the entire time whispering to the friend with bits of information that were not audible, you probably wouldn't enjoy the movie much. On the other hand, if the movie contained description so your blind friend could listen through a headset, you both could enjoy the movie equally.

The members of the Des Moines Chapter, ICUB appreciates the work the FCC has done and would hope the decision to have description for TV and movies in 2002 will stand.

Sincerely,

Michael Barber, President

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Vice President
Elsie Mounthei
1304 - 39th Street
Des Moines, IA 50311

Recording Secretary
Gary Patterson
6311 Franklin Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50322

Treasurer
Dick Natale
817 Sixth Street
W. Des Moines, IA 50265

Corresponding Secretary
Donna Seliger
3912 Southeast Fifth Street
Des Moines, IA 50315

4539 Occidental Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street Southwest
Washington DC 20554

Docket 99-339,
Comments in opposition to Petitioners for reconsideration of the
reported order on video description

Dear Commissioners:

I am a member of the Thursday Thinkers, a group of visually impaired and blind people who regularly meet at the Earle Baum Center of the Blind at Santa Rosa California. Your July ruling requiring the television networks to provide described video means a great deal to me and my visually impaired friends. This gives us the ability to know what is going on on the screen. This is very important to me.

I understand the petitioners for reconsideration have not given any new information that was not considered by the Commission in reaching its decision to require the descriptions.

Sincerely yours,

Anna Tedeschi

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4539 Occidental Road
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November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street Southwest
Washington DC 20554

Docket 99-339,

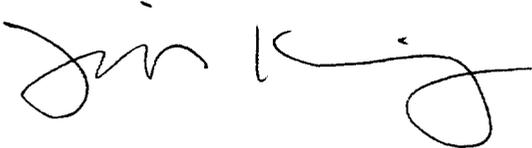
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4539 Occidental Road
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Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street Southwest
Washington DC 20554

Docket 99-339,
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4539 Occidental Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street Southwest
Washington DC 20554

Docket 99-339

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

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I understand the petitioners for reconsideration have not given any new information that was not considered by the Commission in reaching its decision to require the descriptions.

Sincerely yours,

Rudy Genette

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4539 Occidental Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street Southwest
Washington DC 20554

Docket 99-339,

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

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Sincerely yours

Ray Tane

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Santa Rosa, CA 95401

November 9, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street Southwest
Washington DC 20554

Docket 99-339

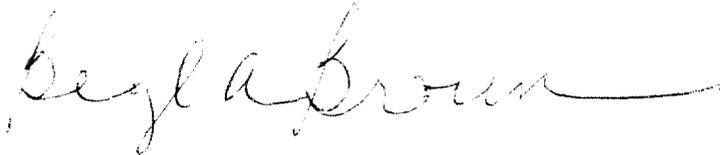
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Sincerely yours,



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FCC MAIL ROOM

25 S. Stone Ave., Apt H-1
La Grange, IL 60525
Nov. 14, 2000

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Ms. Magalie Salas, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

NOV 16 2000
FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Ms. Salas:

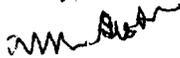
I understand that I am sending you this letter, in opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order on Video Description, after the Nov. 13th deadline. However, I am doing so for a specific reason, which I hope you will consider.

I am in full support of the Commission's previous ruling under Docket Number 99-339 because specific incidents, such as those happening in the past few days, can be avoided. I am totally blind, and have been trying to "watch" the Miracle Worker on ABC television. I have no one to watch it with me, and this movie, about a blind person, is almost completely un-understandable to me. At least half of the movie is music or action with no speech to go along with it. It's ironic that I as a blind person cannot follow a movie about a blind person.

I sincerely appreciate your previous ruling, and firmly believe that no new evidence has been uncovered that would warrant your re-consideration of this ruling. Someday, I would like to watch the Miracle Worker and be able to follow the action, too, just as my sighted counterparts can.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ann Brash

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NOV 16 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

3530A North Drake Road
Apartment 127
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

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

November 12, 2000

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing in regard to Docket # 99-339 and wish to express my opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I am a sighted person who has personal and professional concerns for the communication challenges of persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Video description has excellent potential for increasing the quality of video productions for a group of individuals who are eager to take full advantage of the medium of television. A sighted person can easily imagine how much would be missed if he or she watched a favorite TV drama or sitcom while wearing a blindfold.

It is my fervent hope that the FCC will require video description on television.

Sincerely yours,



Shirley Ann Lukens, M.Ed., O.T.R (Retired)

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