

99-339

Frances Young
7027 Forest Ln NE
Salem OR 97303-1862

RECEIVED

NOV 21 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Maagie Salar, Secretary
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Dear Maagie

I want to express my appreciation to the F.C.C. Commissioners for their vote requiring the Networks to begin providing Video Description to television programming for the blind & visually impaired, & the deaf Community has had closed Captioning available to them for years, so one segment of the handicapped is covered, one is not!!!!

My daughter Kim Charlson has been blind since the age 20 she is now a very accomplished woman of 43, that she, her husband & many others will find enjoyable.



1999 Member
The Humane Society of the United States

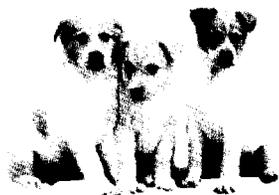
Frances Young
7027 Forest Ln NE
Salem OR 97303-1862

Television & movies are very visual & it is frustrating when the programs contain many long segments of silence, the audio would fill in the silence & make the program so much more enjoyable.

I am sad that they had been petitions for reconsideration, they have not provided any new information that was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision & issued its ruling. This is a serious long overdue. Continue to move forward please!!!

Thank You much!

Frances A Young
7027 Forest Lane E
Salem, OR 97303



1999 Member
The Humane Society of the United States

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NOV 21 2000

November 3, 2000

Ms. Lucille Weedig
Apt. 3
2586 Elizabeth St.
Salt Lake City UT 84106

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Commission of the FCC,

Thank you for the support you have given to those of us who are visually impaired so that we can better understand the videos we watch on T.V. and also those we are able to borrow from the local Blind Library.

I have macular degeneration in both eyes, and am able to see with one eye and a magnifying lens and my peripheral vision well enough to write this letter if I am within 2 inches of the paper.

I am able to watch programs on T.V., but I often miss the printing and action in the videos on T.V. that do not have descriptive talk along with it.

I am a widow and live alone. I can not drive, but am thankful I have friends and family who assist me to get to the Doctors office and to the grocery store, and sometimes on show or drama and are kind to describe the action and printed words.

Ms. Lucille Weedig
LWASGDE

2) Thank you for your vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to those of us who are blind or visually impaired.

It is important that the networks understand that those of us who have very limited vision and are legally blind, to hear the printed words spoken for us to understand.

I truly enjoy watching a video or TV program that has video descriptions. I have watched some of these videos two or three times. I hope more movies will be described so we can enjoy them more.

Thank you all for your help in this worthy project.

My Docket No. 99-339.

I am writing this letter to let you know how much I appreciate your help on this important project.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Leuch M. Wiley

Mr. Dave McDanal
Northern Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
Fort Collins, Colorado
November 6, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Salsa:

This letter is being submitted as an official filing in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. The official docket number is 99-339.

As a member of the Northern Colorado Cross Disabilities Coalition, I urge you not to reverse your decision to require television networks to provide video description for people with visual disabilities. I work with many people who are blind or visually impaired who use descriptive video. Descriptive video makes a huge difference to all of these people.

Imagine how difficult it is following a program without descriptive videos. You miss so much content, it is hardly worth the effort. By running programming with descriptive videos, you make television much more accessible to the four and a half million people who have visual disabilities. Please continue these efforts. They are much needed!

It is my understanding that no new information was submitted by the petitioners that wasn't previously known. I would like to thank the FCC for your support of descriptive videos. Please do not reverse your decision.

Sincerely,



Dave McDanal
Northern Colorado Cross Disability Coalition

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List A B C D E

Dave McDanal
143 West Second Street
Loveland, CO 80537

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HAPPY
"WHO-LIE"
U.S. POSTAGE

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



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

November 3, 2000

Dear Ms. Salas,

RECEIVED
NOV 21 2000
FCC MAIL ROOM

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, *R. Dale Thawron*

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USABCDE

3

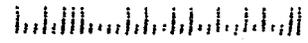


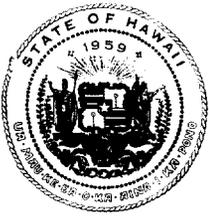
R. Dale Thomas
 R.R. 15 Box 1574
 Bedford, IN 47421-9059

RECEIVED
 NOV 2 12 00
 FCC MAIL ROOM



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





Office of Elections
 State of Hawaii
 802 Lehua Avenue
 Pearl City, HI 96782

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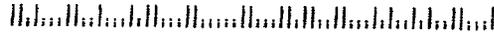
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Docket # 99-339



*****ECRL0T**C006

BOWDEN, ANN B
 AS
 3120 JERVES ST
 LIHUE HI 96766-1160

Federal Communications Commission
 Washington, D.C.

Māhālo! (Hawaiian for thank you) for your July vote on providing video description of key visual elements of TV programming for blind / visually impaired viewers by April 2002.

Sightless people deserve the same access to TV information that people who are sighted. Without this equal access the sightless become more dependant on a family member or friend's interpretation of the program's material - this isolates the sightless person even more.

My reference is to Docket # 99-339.
 Please accept this letter "in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description" -
 Enough delay already!
 Again - māhālo!

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 LATA CODE

MEANING OF A "YES" VOTE

A "Yes" vote means that the Board of Regents will be able to make policy and exercise control except as to "laws of statewide concern" for which the Legislature shall have exclusive jurisdiction to identify.

MEANING OF "NO" VOTE

A "No" vote means that the Board of Regents' power to determine policy and control of the University remains as the Legislature provides by statute.

MEANING OF BLANK VOTE

A Blank Vote is not counted as a "Yes" vote or a "No" vote, but is tallied in the total number of votes cast. In order for a proposed amendment to the State Constitution to be ratified, it must be approved by a majority of all votes tallied upon the question. This majority must constitute at least fifty percent of the total votes cast which includes "Yes," "No," and Blank votes.

PROS AND CONS

Pros:

The proposed changes will give the Board of Regents exclusive authority over policy and management of the University except as to "laws of statewide concern" which is reserved to the Legislature to identify. This will allow the Board to run the University with greater autonomy from the Legislature, but still maintain a balance where the Legislature can enact "laws of statewide concern" which would apply to the University.

There is some disagreement as to the actual impact of granting the Legislature exclusive jurisdiction to identify "laws of statewide concern." Proponents of the amendment interpret the provision to still allow the Board to challenge whether a law is of "statewide concern" in court. Proponents of the amendment believe that this proposal provides more autonomy to the University than presently exists.

Cons:

Some groups contend that this amendment may be a step toward greater autonomy, but it does not grant complete autonomy to the University. While they agree that the language of this amendment confers the exclusive jurisdiction to identify "laws of statewide concern" to the Legislature, there is some disagreement as to the actual impact of this change.

Opponents of the amendment take the position that this change will give more power to the Legislature than it has now, as the Board will no longer be able to challenge the law in court if it disagrees with the Legislature about whether a bill is of "statewide concern." They also believe that if the Legislature decides to override the Board of Regents all it has to do is to pass a law and say that the law is of "statewide concern." This, in the Opponents' view, is giving too much power to the Legislature.

QUESTION #2: APPOINTMENT OF A TAX REVIEW COMMISSION EVERY TEN YEARS

"Shall a Tax Review Commission be appointed every ten years instead of every five years, starting in the year 2005?"

Cons:

Five years is sufficient time for the Legislature to consider and implement the commission's recommendations.

The Legislature will not have to wait ten years, but will continue to have the benefit of the commission's evaluation and recommendations every five years.

QUESTION #3: STAGGERED SENATE TERMS

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION

"Shall the Reapportionment Commission be assigned the duty to maintain the staggering of senate terms in a manner that is equitable for all candidates in an election?"

BACKGROUND

Under current constitutional provisions, all twenty-five members of the Hawaii Senate are elected for four-year terms. The terms are staggered so that only one-half of the senators are up for election at any one time. Thus, twelve senators elected in 1998 are serving four-year terms that end in 2002. Thirteen senators will be elected in 2000. However, because 2001 is a reapportionment year, the Hawaii Constitution requires that all senatorial terms end at the general election at which the apportionment plan becomes effective. This means that all twenty-five members of the Senate will be up for election in 2002, and the terms of the thirteen senators who are elected in 2000 will end in 2002 resulting in two-year terms for those members.

Under the present constitutional provisions, in order to stagger the terms of the senators after reapportionment, any re-elected senator whose prior term was shortened to two years by the reapportionment is assigned to serve a four-year term. Any new senator or re-elected senator whose prior term was not shortened by reapportionment is assigned to serve a two-year term. For example, a senator who is re-elected in 2002, whose prior term of office was shortened to two years because of the occurrence of a reapportionment year, is to be assigned a four-year term, while a re-elected senator who served a four-year term immediately preceding re-election is to be assigned a two-year term.

However, all challengers who are elected during the 2002 election will receive only two-year terms, regardless of whether their incumbent opponents during the election would have been eligible to be assigned a four-year term. It has been argued that this arrangement unfairly favors incumbent senators, and discriminates against challengers.

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The proposed amendment will require the Reapportionment Commission, as part of the reapportionment plan, to assign two-year terms to twelve senate seats to be filled in the election immediately following adoption of the reapportionment plan, and to assign four-year terms to the remaining thirteen senate seats. The Commission is to assign the two-year terms to senate seats in such a way so that the resident population of each senate district has no more than two regular senate elections for a particular senate seat within the six-year period beginning in the even-numbered year prior to the reapportionment year. The proposed amendment will require the Reapportionment Commission to calculate the number or per-

ers represented by a senator who served a four-year term before reapportionment, the Commission would assign that senate seat a two-year term.

MEANING OF A "NO" VOTE

A "No" vote will retain the constitutional provision giving thirteen of the twenty-five incumbent senators a four-year term while giving others, including any newly elected senators, a two-year term.

MEANING OF A BLANK VOTE

A Blank Vote is not counted as a "Yes" vote or a "No" vote, but is tallied in the total number of votes cast. In order for a proposed amendment to the State Constitution to be ratified, it must be approved by a majority of all votes tallied upon the question. This majority must constitute at least fifty percent of the total votes cast which includes "Yes," "No," and Blank votes.

PROS AND CONS

Pros:

The current system unfairly gives incumbent senators longer terms than challengers. This discrimination may also be unconstitutional, since the United States Constitution prohibits this type of unequal treatment unless justified by a compelling state interest. Failure to correct this problem will likely result in litigation and uncertainty over senatorial election results.

Under the present system, it is more difficult for challengers to raise money, since their potential supporters know that the incumbent will be entitled to twice as long a term if elected. Incumbent candidates can inform voters that, if elected, they will receive a four-year term while their opponents will receive only a two-year term. This will have a chilling effect on the pool of challenger candidates. The rights of voters who participate in the 2002 elections and who support challenger candidates, as well as the rights of the challengers themselves, will be abridged by an unconstitutional system of electing candidates.

The proposed amendment is needed because it treats both incumbent and newly-elected senators fairly and equally with respect to the assignment of terms of office. It clarifies that a term of office attaches to a particular senate seat, rather than the individual elected to that seat. It increases public confidence in the electoral process.

The proposed amendment gives the Reapportionment Commission the authority to determine the length of terms for the senate seat for each post-reapportionment district.

Cons:

The work of the Reapportionment Commission is a difficult and complicated process depending on the extent of the increase and shift in the State's population. The proposed amendment now adds the additional responsibility of determining two different terms of office for the Senate, which will be a first for any Reapportionment Commission in Hawaii.

The ballot question, as drafted, is vague. It should be redrafted to more accurately reflect the proposed constitutional language.



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

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 NOV 2 12:00
 FCC MAIL ROOM



Thursday, November 02, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am a 53 year old blind person who uses the Descriptive Video Service and I find it essential in understanding what is going on in a movie's story line as well as on some PBS programming.

I would like to applaud you for making it possible for blind people to be able to watch regular TV shows as well as being able to watch movies and not having to ask someone else what is going on during the viewing of a movie or TV program.

The passing of Docket #99-339 is going to help blind people be able to live a more meaningful and independent life and they will be on an even plane with sighted people when it comes to television and movies.

I am opposed to those who want you to reconsider the action that may reverse the passing of the new law, that goes into effect April 2002. The people who oppose this ruling have no new information which should change the ruling for the betterment of blind people. It seems that they just need to twist the ruling to suit their own selfish needs.

I am looking forward to April 2002 when I will be able to turn on the TV and view programming that is supposed to be accessible to everyone, including blind people.

Again I would like to thank you for helping the blind have access to movies and TV programming, I appreciate it very much.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Carter
fcarter@linc.org

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Frederick Carter
1125 S. Clinton St., 1st Floor
Baltimore, MD 21224

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



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819 Colusa St.,
Chico, Ca. 95928-4116
(9(530) 343-6141
Nov. 9, 2000

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

Dear Sir:

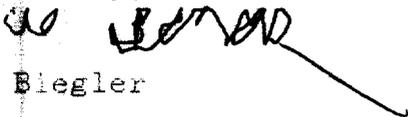
This is reference to Docket No. 99-339. I am submitting my opinion in opposition to Petitioners on the groups who want to do away with the video Description for television programing.

I feel Descriptive Video is the best this that has ever happened for the Blind and Visually Impaired. My main experience has been with the Descriptive Video Service and some on channel nine here in our area. Channel nine is an educational station located in Redding Ca. I feel we need more descriptive services. I get rather tired having to ask what is happening during a silent part of a movie.

From my own view I find movies more enjoyable when they have description included. I feel it is the best thing that has ever happened for the blind and visually impaired community and I would encourage every blind and visually impaired person to try it. I feel we should have a right to enjoy movies along with everyone else and discriptive video gives us that right. This Federal Communication Commission ruling is a vital step in having television that is accessible for the blind and visually impaired citizens.

Please do not let the Television and Cable companies take this right away.

Sincerely,



Al Biegler

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List A B C D E

November 4, 2000

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

[Handwritten signature] RECEIVED

NOV 21 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

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List A B C D E

Dear Secretary Salas:

I am writing to you today for two purposes: The first is to thank you and the rest of the Federal Communications Commission for the courageous stand you took on July 21, 2000. Secondly, as a visually impaired person, I cannot tell you how excited I am when I think about April 2002. I cannot wait to watch programming produced by the major television networks that is accessible to me. I strongly believe that *all* Americans should have the same right to entertainment as well as news and emergency information. Our visual impairments should not keep us from being connected to the rest of the world – we are people too! We want to be able to watch the news, sitcoms, sports, and most importantly, we want to have access to emergency information.

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 I and all people with visual impairments have equal access to television.

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,

Timothy R Hirtle #410

Dona Hanner #407

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signatures and notes]
Rogelia E. F...
Robert J. ...
Ben ...
Mod...
C...
...



National Accreditation Council

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

260 Northland Blvd.
Suite 233
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246
Tel 513-772-8449
Fax 513-772-8854

for Agencies Serving the Blind & Visually Handicapped

11/7/00

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NOV 21 2000
FCC MAIL ROOM

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

Caption: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing to express my support for the FCC decision to make video description of key visual elements of television programming available to blind and visually impaired viewers. Although I am not visually impaired, my career as a professional in special education and rehabilitation of blind persons has spanned nearly 40 years. During this time I have been aware of the lack of parity between television media communication for sighted persons and those without vision. Video description will go a long way toward erasing that disparity. My sincere thanks and congratulations to the FCC for its landmark decision to require that this service be provided.

It is my understanding that the FCC has been petitioned to reconsider its decision regarding video description. While I have not read the petition it is hard for me to believe that the petitioners could provide any new information that was not already known by the FCC at the time of the decision. Please regard my comments in this letter as being in opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the FCC order on video description and that I respectfully request that the original decision of the FCC be upheld.

Sincerely,


Gerald W. Mundy, Ed.D.
Executive Director

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List A B C D E

99-339

Bob & Marti Bitts; 5513 S Prince ST; Littleton, CO 80120; (303) 798-4319
e-mail: bitts@compuserve.com fax: (303) 738-9597

RECEIVED

3 November 2000, Friday, 06:15.

MAGALIE SALAS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, FCC
445 12TH ST SW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

NOV 21 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir:

I am writing as a friend of descriptive video. I do not use it much, but when I do, it is most appreciated, and I do hope that theaters may soon be so equipped. My wife gets a crook in her neck narrating movies to me, and sometimes we are a major irritation to the folks in the row ahead.

very sincerely,

Robert J. Bitts

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List A B C D E

Mrs. Kathleen L. Maroney
1351 S. Edinburgh Dr.
Loveland, CO 80537
November 3, 2000

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

RECEIVED
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FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Ms. Salas:

As the wife of a person who is totally blind and the sister of two who have low-vision, I would like to let you know how important it is to me that you do not reverse your decision mandating video description for television programming for people with visual impairments. I really appreciate the fact that you ruled to require television networks to provide video descriptions. Please don't allow the television, cable, and motion picture industry to change your opinion. If your decision was right it the first place, it still is.

Closed captioning is available for people with hearing impairments, and I'm sure that you realize that people with visual disabilities need video descriptions just as much. I try my best to describe what is happening during television shows and movies, but during fast or technical scenes, this is an almost impossible task. My husband is very appreciative of what I am able to do, but he knows that he is missing some things that descriptive video could provide. This saddens me.

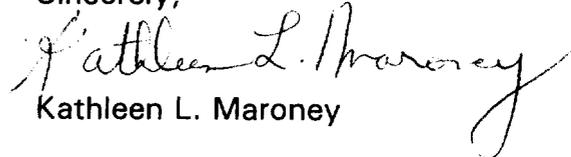
A survey showed that blindness was the disability that people feared the most. Shouldn't we do our best to provide any consideration and help for people with visual disabilities? Blindness is a very difficult condition to experience, and Descriptive Video is a positive thing that could provide so much benefit and joy to people with visual disabilities.

I am submitting these comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. Please consider this an official filing for Docket No. 99-339. I am imploring you to vote not only with your mind but with your heart. Please don't be persuaded to do something that you know is not right by reversing your decision. Thank you so much.

No. of Copies rec'd
LRASODE

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Sincerely,


Kathleen L. Maroney

DENYSE J. EDDY
1620 Mayflower Court B-122
Winter Park, Florida 32792-2567

November 7, 2000

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

RECEIVED
NOV 21 2000
FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Magalie Salas:

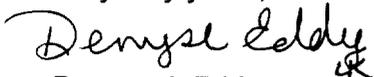
I want to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind or visually impaired.

It is so important for anyone who cannot see the television screen to have an alternate means like the video description to know what is happening on the television. In fact, there are too many stations that give stock market reports, sport reports and lottery reports only visually which is most frustrating. I have been so looking forward to turning on my television in April, 2002 to be able to enjoy the television shows utilizing the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

We have **heard** there is a Petition for Reconsideration and do not understand why. There is **nothing** to indicate a new factor to reconsider the decision so why retract it!

Please consider this letter as comments **IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.**

Very truly yours,


Denyse J. Eddy

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LBBABODE

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NOV 21 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

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

Re: docket number 99339,

To whom it may concern,

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

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

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

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

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

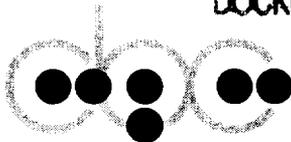
The value of video descriptions to blind and visually impaired people cannot be over estimated; and, as an individual who plans to take full advantage of its availability, I wish personally to thank the Commissioners for the positive stand they have taken regarding this matter. Further, I request that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

Sincerely yours,

M. Eugene Spurrrier

M. Eugene Spurrrier

No. of Copies rec'd 0
LWABODE



COMMUNITY
BLIND CENTER

November 6, 2000

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

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NOV 21 2000
FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: Docket No. 99-339

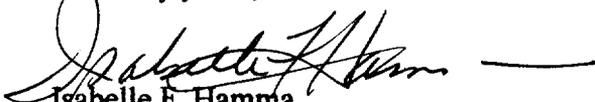
Dear Ms. Salas:

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.

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.

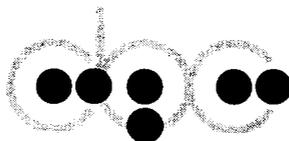
Sincerely yours,


Isabelle F. Hamma
Office Manager

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COMMUNITY
BLIND CENTER

November 6, 2000

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FCC MAIL ROOM

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. As one who has a visual impairment, I look 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,

Patrick A. Moore
Executive Director

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COMMUNITY
BLIND CENTER

November 6, 2000

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

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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.

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,

Jori D. Bauer, M.A., COMS
Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist

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November 4, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary
 FCC
 445 12 Street, SW
 Washington, DC 20554

John J. Morrison
 169 N. Wilson Rd, #201
 Columbus, Oh 43204

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Re: Docket No. 99-339
 Comments in opposition to petitioners
 for reconsideration of the reported
 order on video description

Dear FCC:

I appreciate the FCC for making the
 courageous decision to require TV networks
 to provide video description ~~and~~ ^{for the} visually
 impaired, I am visually impaired. I believe
 it is important our society attempts to
 open up all aspects of life to all citizens.
 It is my understanding that the petitioners have
 not provided any new information since the
 original decision/vote was held in July.
 I sincerely hope the FCC does not reconsider its
 decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John J. Morrison

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519 E Main ST #8
Spartanburg, SC 29302
864-585-7323

Sunday November 5, 2000

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

Reference Docket No. 99-339. As a legally blind viewer, I would like to see the FCC's decision maintained to incorporate description into TV programming by Aprill, 2002. Note that opposition has not been supported by new information.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mattson
Barbara Mattson

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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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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,

Rosemary Miller

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Rosemary Miller
16696 U. S Hwy. 12
Union, MI 49130-9231

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



November 6, 2000

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

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Magalie:

I am writing this letter in order to show my opposition to the "Petitions to Reconsider" on providing video description for television programming. I would hope that the FCC will stand firm and continue forward requiring television networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for the blind and visually impaired viewers by April, 2002

I am the parent of a blind teacher and a member of the American Council of the Blind and know how important video description for television programming can help a blind person to understand what is happening on the television during programs for those who cannot see.

It is my understanding that the petitioners (cable and motion picture industry associations and etc.) who have submitted this petition have not provided 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.

I appreciate the Commissioners of the FCC for their brave vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired. I urge the FCC to not back down on their original ruling.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Hayes
Patricia W. Hayes

230 Robinhood Lane
McMurray, PA 15317

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Carla Hayes
230 Robinhood Lane
McMurray, PA 15317
Phone: (724) 941-8184

November 6, 2000

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

RE: Docket No. 99-339

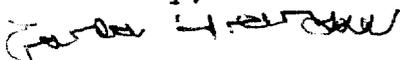
Dear Magalie Salas:

I am writing this letter to commend the FCC on its courageous July 21, 2000 ruling requiring networks to provide video description by April of 2002. I would also like to go on record opposing those who have petitioned the FCC to reconsider this historic ruling. In my opinion, these petitioners have not provided any new information which wasn't already known at the time that the FCC reached its decision. Therefore, their petitions should not even be considered.

Video description is vitally important for blind and visually impaired television viewers. It provides essential information about key visual elements which greatly enhances the TV viewing experience for blind and visually impaired people. Even more importantly, it can provide emergency weather and other information which is normally scrolled silently across the screen, making it useless to anyone who cannot read it. In such situations, video description can actually save lives.

I greatly enjoy the video description which is provided on some PBS programming and home videos, and I am really looking forward to enjoying it on network television in April, 2002 which your innovative ruling will provide. Please do not deprive me and thousands of other blind and visually impaired people of this opportunity. I implore you to let your July 21, 2000 order stand! By doing so, you will be providing a valuable service to the public. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Carla Hayes

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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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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.

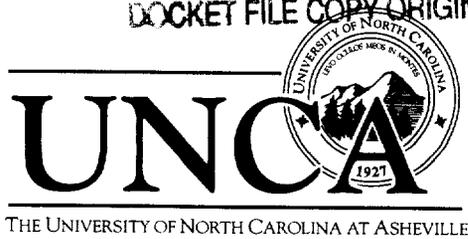
I am writing this letter in consideration of and for people who are blind or visually impaired. It is very important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means for knowing what's happening on the television. It allows people who are blind or visually impaired to enjoy television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

Norma Thomas
R#15 Box 1576
Bedford, Ind 47421

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November 8, 2000

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FCC MAIL ROOM

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

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I write this letter to commend the Commissioners for their vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description for television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers. As an institution of learning, we are acutely aware of the importance of equalizing opportunities for all segments of our population to the fullest extent possible. Video description would make accessible a medium that is an important resource in our information-driven world.

It is my understanding that petitioners have requested a reconsideration of the order on video description despite any new information that was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling.

The Commission has been given a unique opportunity to provide a valuable tool to a group of people whose lives would be enhanced by this service, who would have access to essential information and who would be afforded some of the privileges that the rest of us enjoy.

I urge you to stand firm in your original ruling and provide this alternate means of "viewing" to the blind and visually impaired without delay.

Sincerely,

James H. Mullen, Jr.
Chancellor

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
253 Phillips Hall, CPO #1400
The University of North Carolina at Asheville
One University Heights
Asheville, NC 28804-8503

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NORTH CAROLINA'S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

November 4, 2000

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

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

Dear Secretary Salas:

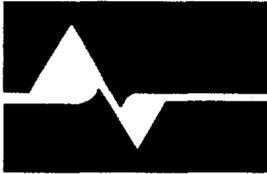
I am writing to you today for two purposes: The first is to thank you and the rest of the Federal Communications Commission for the courageous stand you took on July 21, 2000. Secondly, as a visually impaired person, I cannot tell you how excited I am when I think about April 2002. I cannot wait to watch programming produced by the major television networks that is accessible to me. I strongly believe that *all* Americans should have the same right to entertainment as well as news and emergency information. Our visual impairments should not keep us from being connected to the rest of the world – we are people too! We want to be able to watch the news, sitcoms, sports, and most importantly, we want to have access to emergency information.

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 I and all people with visual impairments have equal access to television.

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, Robin Jones

Constance K. Kelly
Robert G. Martin Jr.
Katherine Sp...
Helen M. Coats
Marilyn Sch...
Pete...
Medy...
Pete...
Medy...
Pete...
Medy...



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November 3, 2000

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

Re: IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE
REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION. DOCKET # 99-339

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to our attention that the television, cable and motion picture industry has filed "Petitions to Reconsider" to the FCC in regards to the ruling for video description to be provided by these mentioned entities. The FCC made a positive step towards assisting people, who are blind and visually impaired, by approving this measure. It has been greatly appreciated by many in our community and our thanks to the FCC.

Video description has proven to be invaluable in improving the understanding of the visual aspects of programming and is the equivalent of closed caption for those with hearing impairment. One can not emphasize the importance of having people with visual impairment benefit from the enhancement that video description provides and one that sighted people take for granted.

The FCC has already reached their decision of July 21, 2000, that video description be approved and to reconsider that decision in any way will only be a detriment to the progress the FCC has already achieved.

Sincerely,

Valerie Kline

Chair, Loveland Handicapped Advisory Commission

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