

**From:** Jill Draves <p30jld1@corn.cso.niu.edu>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 12:09 PM  
**Subject:** MM Docket No. 99-339

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

November 8, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: MM Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas,

I am writing to urge that the rules on audio description be adopted as soon as possible. With greater emphasis on video displays of all sorts, the only segment of the population who is left out in the cold as it were is the blind. For that group of people, among whom I count myself, I would urge that the rules governing audio description be adopted.

Thank you very much for your consideration if this matter.

Sincerely,

Gaylen Kapperman, Ed.D.  
Professor and Coordinator  
Teacher Education - Programs in Vision  
Faculty of Special Education

GK:jd

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**From:** Byron Smith <byron@indiana.edu>  
**To:** <byron@indiana.edu>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 11:23 AM  
**Subject:** Letter to Magalie Salas

Dear Ms. Salas,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Byron K Smith

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

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

**CC:** <access@fcc.gov>, <info@acb.org>

99-339

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Byron K Smith

**From:** Kathleen Gasper <kgasper@world.std.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 9, 2000 10:29 AM  
**Subject:** docket No. 99-339

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Kathleen Gasper

22 Myrtle St.  
 Watertown MA 02472  
 November 9, 2000

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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 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 Commisioners, to overturn your original well thought out decision.

Sincerely,  
 Kathleen Gasper

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**From:** <Mark\_Smiech/NIG/SArmy%NIG%SAHUB@salvationarmy.org>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 9, 2000 8:51 AM  
**Subject:** Video Description

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

Dear Sir:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your prompt attention.  
Very sincerely,

Mary B. Smiech

CC: <info@acb.org>

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**From:** <WalkgDDog@aol.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 11:12 PM  
**Subject:** Docket No. 99-339

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The following is a copy of my comments sent Magalie Salas:

Benita Shor  
202 Park Avenue  
Madison, NJ 07940-1128

November 8, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th 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

CC: <info@acb.org>

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 7, 2000  
Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear MS. Salas:

My name is Bob Hachey and my address is 22 Grant Street Waltham, Ma 02453-4202. I am writing to you today for two reasons. Firstly I would like to thank you and the FCC commissioners for the ruling of July 21 concerning video description (Docket No. 99-339). Secondly, I strongly urge the FCC to reject the petitions for re-consideration filed by those opposed to mandatory video description.

As a totally blind person, I have enjoyed the benefits of video description. When I watch described movies with my wife, we both get more out of them. When we watch non-described movies and other television programs, I find myself asking her what happened. When she tells me, we both miss some of the event. If this event is on tape, I find myself hitting the pause button so she can tell me what's going on; I also rewind the tape so that we can find out what we missed while she was describing. If the event is not on tape, then we missed out on part of it. I especially enjoyed Titanic with video description. Video description gives me total access to movies and other television programming. Thus, I was very pleased with the FCC ruling which requires major television networks to begin providing video description in 2002.

I fervently hope that the FCC will reject the appeals to this ruling. Without video description, blind and visually impaired persons will not have equal access to television and movies. Moreover, the petitioners have not produced any new evidence as to why video description should not be required. They have trotted out the same tired arguments which the FCC rejected when making the ruling. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Bob Hachey

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**From:** Willie t Berry <mrbandmsappel@juno.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 8:28 PM  
**Subject:** video description for television programming

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm writing this letter to express my concerns and gratitude for the July 21st ruling of the Federal Communications Commission on Docket No. 99-339. Which will require television networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for the blind and visual impaired. I'm excited and looking forward to being able to sit down and enjoy a program with my family. April 2002 can't get here fast enough for me and my family. Visually impaired viewers.. as myself support video description and appreciate FCC's July vote. My concerns are "in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description". Its very important to me and my family in having television that is accessible for blind and visually impaired citizens. As for me being visual impaired I appreciate and thank the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote. I Pray April 2002 isn't a disappointment!

Sincerely,  
Willie T. Berry

**CC:** <info@acb.org>

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**From:** <6053312131@shoutmail.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 7:39 PM  
**Subject:** Regarding opposition to petitioners to docket number 99-339

Dear Sir,

I am writing in opposition to the petitioners who have submitted petitions against your July ruling regarding descriptive video. Descriptive video has been an integral part of my life for almost a decade. Through rented and borrowed DVS movies, I have been more able to follow the plot, and have received vital information here to for left up to guess work. I have noticed that closed captioning is available to deaf persons everywhere, but that vital information on the screens of televisions are often not able to be discerned by blind individuals.

The petitioners that are against the rules that you set forth have not provided any new information and their position on this topic seems to be illogical. Please continue to take a stand for blind television viewers by enforcing the regulation that you put out in July. I look forward to turning on my television in April, 2002 and having all of the programs be described in detail for the first time.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ver Steeg  
2505 S. Willow Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD  
57105

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**From:** <T2RANSKY@aol.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>, <info@acb.org>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 6:39 PM  
**Subject:** VIDEO DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

Dear Members of the FCC:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Todd Turansky  
PO Box 12064  
Augusta, GA 30914

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**From:** "ldhealy" <ldhealy@negia.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 6:37 PM  
**Subject:** Audio Descriptionn

November 8, 2000

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

Dear Secretary Salas:

The commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 11, 2000 recognized that I as a person who is blind have an equal right to information and entertainment on television by issuing a final rule, Docket 99-339, requiring that video description be provided for prime time television programming starting in 2002. I would like to thank the commissioners for taking this bold step toward providing me and others who are blind or visually impaired equal access to television broadcasting.

Video description will allow me to sit down with my family, watch a television program or movie and not have to rely on someone sitting with me to describe what is happening on the screen. We will all be able to enjoy the program. I have enjoyed video described movies made available through Descriptive Video Service in my home. I have watched two movies, "Top Gun" and "Three Men and a Baby" with and without video description. I enjoyed these movies much more with description because I knew everything that was happening on the screen. I knew what costumes the actors and actresses were wearing and what the setting of each scene was like. This is information people who can see always know when watching a movie and they take it for granted. Why should I as a person who is blind be denied access to that information? The FCC showed on September 11 that it believes I should not be denied equal access to that information in television programming.

I have also been privileged to watch two movies at a local theater where the DVS Theatrical (tm) system is installed. This system allowed me to wear headphones which, through infrared technology, were receiving video descriptions made for each of the movies, "The Mask of Zoro" and "Hanging Up." My wife, who is also blind, and I thoroughly enjoyed our outings to the theater to see these movies thanks to the availability of video description.

ON October 11, the FCC received petitions from the broadcast industry and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) urging reconsideration of the rules requiring video description on prime time television. I strongly urge that these petitions be rejected because they do not present any new arguments which the commission has not already considered.

Broadcasters raise concerns about the cost of video description. These are similar to concerns raised some ten years ago when requirements for closed captioning of TV programming first came out. Now, 90% of tvb programs are closed captioned and we do not hear broadcasters complaining about the cost.

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The cost of video description is minimal when compared to the revenue broadcasters and program producers derive from tv programming.

The NFB's petition for reconsideration asserts that requirements for video description have been placed ahead of requiring verbal announcements of emergency information being scrolled across television screens accompanied by only a beep tone. While this is certainly a valid concern, the fact is solutions to make this emergency information available in a verbal format still need to be identified. Video description has been available on public broadcasting stations and home videos for about ten years or so and in movie theaters for at least two and a half years. While the NFB's assertions regarding emergency announcements need to be given serious consideration, the commission should not delay implementation of the requirements for video description on prime time television.

Video description is a proven method of making the visual elements of movies and other tv programming accessible to people like me who are blind or visually impaired. I thank the commission once again for recognizing that I and others who are blind or visually impaired have for too long been denied access to television programs. Please do not delay the implementation of the requirements for video description on prime time tv programs based on the petitions for reconsideration you have received as they present no valid arguments that would warrant such a delay or other reconsideration of the applicable final rule issued September 11, Docket 99-339.

Thank you for your time, attention, and for the commission's recognition of my right to access information and entertainment on television. I will be watching what happens very closely.

Sincerely,

Leo P. Healy

CC: "Charles Crawford" <CCrawford@acb.org>

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**From:** "ldhealy" <ldhealy@negia.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 6:27 PM  
**Subject:** Audio Description

November 8, 2000

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Secretary Salas:

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Video description will allow me to sit down with my family, watch a television program or movie and not have to rely on someone sitting with me to describe what is happening on the screen. We will all be able to enjoy the program. I have enjoyed video described movies made available through Descriptive Video Service in my home. I have watched two movies, "Top Gun" and "Three Men and a Baby" with and without video description. I enjoyed these movies much more with description because I knew everything that was happening on the screen. I knew what costumes the actors and actresses were wearing and what the setting of each scene was like. This is information people who can see always know when watching a movie and they take it for granted. Why should I as a person who is blind be denied access to that information? The FCC showed on September 11 that it believes I should not be denied equal access to that information in television programming.

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Video description is a proven method of making the visual elements of movies and other tv programming accessible to people like me who are blind or visually impaired. I thank the commission once again for recognizing that I and others who are blind or visually impaired have for too long been denied access to television programs. Please do not delay the implementation of the requirements for video description on prime time tv programs based on the petitions for reconsideration you have received as they present no valid arguments that would warrant such a delay or other reconsideration of the applicable final rule issued September 11, Docket 99-339.

Thank you for your time, attention, and for the commission's recognition of my right to access information and entertainment on television. I will be watching what happens very closely.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Healy

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**From:** Audrey Schading <AudreyS@jgb.org>  
**To:** "access@fcc.gov" <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 5:38 PM  
**Subject:** For Magalie Salas: Great appreciation for descriptive network TV (Docket 99-339)

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.

Audrey Schading

**CC:** "info@acb.org" <info@acb.org>

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Magalie Salas  
Secretary of Federal Communications Commission  
445-12 the Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 205554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Salas;

As a blind person, I wish to receive descriptive talking videos, movies and programming in all forms of television, local, cable, satellite, and any other technique that is available. I enjoy the Video description film we now are able to receive from the Library system.

The blind and visually impaired should have the right to hear descriptive programming as do the hearing impaired have the right to see the programs. We are very happy they are able to have the programming. We did not ask to have a seeing problems and deserve to have the same privileges as a sighted person. We are finding that each day more people, as they grow older are experiencing more macular generation, glaucoma, and sight loss from diabetes, as well as accidents and other illnesses.

It is my understanding that file docket # 99-339 is to do away with the decision made on July 21, 2000 in which we the blind and visually impaired were to have descriptive television, videos etc. by April 2002.

I am asking you to vote to continue to provide and add more descriptive talking programming for the blind and visually impaired. If you were to view one, you as a sighted person would find they are very enjoyable.

Thanking you in advance for helping us to enjoy talking programming.

Sincerely yours,

*Cat Reed*  
306 Cresthawn  
Washington, D.C. 20015

cc: Honable Ray Lahood

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Salas  
Secretary of Federal Communications Commission  
445-12 the Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 205554

Dear Mr. Salas;

Having friends that are blind and visually impaired they wish to receive descriptive talking videos, movies and programming in all forms of television, local, cable, satellite, and any other technique that is available. They enjoy the Video description film they now are able to receive from the Library system.

The blind and visually impaired should have the right to hear descriptive programming as do the hearing impaired have the right to see the programs. We are very happy they are able to have the programming. They did not ask to have a seeing problems and deserve to have the same privileges as a sighted person. We are finding more of our friends each day as they grow older are experiencing more macular generation, glaucoma, and sight loss from diabetes, as well as accidents and other illnesses.

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I am asking you to vote to continue to provide and add more descriptive talking programming for the blind and visually impaired. If you were to view one, you as a sighted person would find they are very enjoyable.

Thanking you in advance for helping everyone to enjoy talking programming.

Sincerely yours,

*Shaw Salas*  
1030 W Teton DR  
Peoria, IL 61614

cc: Honorable Ray Lahood

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Salas  
Secretary of Federal Communications Commission  
445-12 the Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 205554

2000 NOV 28 3 35

Dear Mr. Salas,

Having friends that are blind and visually impaired they wish to receive descriptive talking videos, movies and programming in all forms of television, local, cable, satellite, and any other technique that is available. They enjoy the Video description film they now are able to receive from the Library system.

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I am asking you to vote to continue to provide and add more descriptive talking programming for the blind and visually impaired. If you were to view one, you as a sighted person would find they are very enjoyable.

Thanking you in advance for helping everyone to enjoy talking programming.

Sincerely yours,

*Peggy Davis*  
3316 W. Malone  
Peoria, IL 61605

cc: Honorable Ray Lahood

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

2000 NOV 20 P 3:35

Magalie Salas  
Secretary of Federal Communications Commission  
445-12 the Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 205554

Dear Mr. Salas;

Having friends that are blind and visually impaired they wish to receive descriptive talking videos, movies and programming in all forms of television, local, cable, satellite, and any other technique that is available. They enjoy the Video description film they now are able to receive from the Library system.

The blind and visually impaired should have the right to hear descriptive programming as do the hearing impaired have the right to see the programs. We are very happy they are able to have the programming. They did not ask to have a seeing problems and deserve to have the same privileges as a sighted person. We are finding more of our friends each day as they grow older are experiencing more macular generation, glaucoma, and sight loss from diabetes, as well as accidents and other illnesses.

It is my understanding that file docket # 99-339 is to do away with the decision made on July 21, 2000 in which we the friends of the blind and visually impaired were to have descriptive television, videos etc. by April 2002.

I am asking you to vote to continue to provide and add more descriptive talking programming for the blind and visually impaired. If you were to view one, you as a sighted person would find they are very enjoyable.

Thanking you in advance for helping everyone to enjoy talking programming.

Sincerely yours,

*William W. Nelson Sr.*  
2613 W Humbolt  
Provo, UT 84605

cc: Honorable Ray Lahood

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November 13, 2000

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Magalie Salas  
Secretary of Federal Communications Commission  
445-12 the Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 205554

2000 NOV 28 11:33 AM  
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Dear Mr. Salas;

Having friends that are blind and visually impaired they wish to receive descriptive talking videos, movies and programming in all forms of television, local, cable, satellite, and any other technique that is available. They enjoy the Video description film they now are able to receive from the Library system.

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Sincerely yours,

*Nicole A. Wood*  
2613 W Humboldt  
Peoria, IL 61605

cc: Honorable Ray Lahood

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Magalie Salas  
Secretary of Federal Communications Commission  
445-12 the Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 205554

Dear Mr. Salas;

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Thanking you in advance for helping everyone to enjoy talking programming.

Sincerely yours,

*Debbie L. Haffner*  
1411 Springfield Rd.  
East Peoria, IL 61611

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cc: Honorable Ray Lahood

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Magalie Salas  
Secretary of Federal Communications Commission  
445-12 the Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 205554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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2000 NOV 28 PM 3:35

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Sincerely yours,

*Jason Steele*  
3316 W. Malone

cc: Honorable Ray Lahood

Peoria, IL 61605

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Magalie Salas  
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Sincerely yours,

*William Hattor*  
1411 Springfield Rd  
East Peo, IL. 61611

cc: Honorable Ray Lahood

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Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554  
November 9, 2000

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JAN - 5 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Commissioners and the Secretary of the FCC:

Thank you for your support of video description. The FCC July vote on this issue was a giant step towards equality for all Americans. Thank you for voting in favor of this very important and controversial issue – the FCC commissioners are certainly courageous. I am truly glad the FCC is willing to stand up to corporate America. I support video description on television programming because as a legally blind American I am able to receive crucial and essential information that I could not access in the past.

I have watched several shows on PBS and Movies that have video description in them. This secondary audio programming (SAP) service is wonderful because sighted people do not have to use this service and are not distracted by it. As a legally blind American I have a large amount of sight, I travel without a cane and with special bioptic glasses that may allow me to drive. However, this video description is still very important to me, it allows me to be aware of subtle actions on television programming. It allows me to sit away from a television and reduces that amount of dangerous radiation that television put off. I am looking forward to video description on a network scale in April of 2002.

Recently, I have been informed that there are petitioners who are urging the FCC to turn around their decision on descriptive video. This saddens me. The petitioners are not bringing any new information to the table. Please stand strong in your decision to not let blind and visually impaired Americans become second rate citizens. This letter is in opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order of video description. The official docket number is No. 99-339.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Avila  
Manager of Training and Technical Staff  
Bartimaeus Group

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**Sandra Harmon: Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration**

**From:** Sandra Harmon <sandrah@pocketmail.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 2, 2000 1:18 AM

FCC,

I, Sandra Harmon, the above named sender, is sending comments  
:In Opposition To Petitioners For  
Reconsideration Of The Reported Order  
On Video Description.: Docket No.  
99-339

I feel the petitioners, have not  
provided any new information beyond  
which was already known when the FCC  
reached their decision.

I am very much a TV watcher for information and as an life entertainment. Not able to go and hope into a car and go to theatres, ball games where distant sight is essential. I have been waiting many years to where I could enjoy descriptive video in my home on my tv. We as blind and visually impaired tv waters should have the same enjoyable moments as sighted people.

I, among many "Blind" appreciate FCC's courageous vote requiring the tv networks to provide this service in April of 20002.

Thank you for listening to me.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Harmon

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**From:** Larry <lmcneese@pacbell.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 8, 2000 12:05 AM  
**Subject:** (no subject)

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

RE: Docket No. 99-339  
Disability Rights, video description

I wish to impress upon the commission my appreciation of the courageous vote by the commissioners requiring that the networks begin providing the essential video descriptions of network programs to the visually impaired.

Without these descriptions, those of us who cannot see the television screens properly are not able to follow the network programs and lose out on the

information that we need to perform our civic functions within our communities.

I feel that the petitioners for reconsideration have not provided any new or pertinent information beyond that which was previously considered at the time that the FCC reached its original decision and issued its ruling. I oppose any changes that the petitioners may present. I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and others who are legally blind and who may not be able to correspond with you appropriately.

Signed,  
Aleck R. Rafolovich

This letter is being sent to you by Larry L. McNeese on behalf of Aleck Rafolovich.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20541

99-339-0  
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