



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 27 2001

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CN0102490

The Honorable Leonard L. Boswell
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
709 Furnas Drive, Suite 1
Osceola, IA 50213

Dear Congressman Boswell:

Thank you for forwarding the recent letter from your constituent, Ms. Annette Koephe, regarding the transition to digital television (DTV). She expresses her concern that smaller TV stations will not be able to afford to make the transition by May, 2002, and suggests that the Commission allow them the option of delaying their conversion from analog to digital operation until ownership of DTV receivers is more widespread.

The Commission is sensitive to the challenges facing small market broadcasters. There is a process stations may use to seek an extension of the DTV construction deadline. In the *Fifth Report and Order* with respect to DTV, the Commission noted that it will grant an extension of the construction deadline where a broadcaster has been unable to complete construction due to circumstances that are either unforeseeable or beyond the licensee's control if the licensee has taken all reasonable steps to resolve the problem expeditiously. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, the inability to construct and place in operation a facility necessary for transmitting DTV, such as a tower, because of delays in obtaining zoning or FAA approvals, or similar constraints, or lack of equipment necessary to transmit a DTV signal. The Commission stated that it did not anticipate that the circumstance of "lack of equipment" would include the cost of such equipment. The Commission delegated authority to the Mass Media Bureau to grant two such six-month extensions of time, after which extension requests will be referred to the Commission.

The Commission is currently considering petitions for reconsideration of the *Report and Order* in the first DTV periodic review proceeding. Some of these petitions have asked the Commission to extend the applicable construction deadlines for stations in smaller markets, citing costs and hardship, and those petitions are pending.

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The Commission will include your constituent's letter in the record of the DTV periodic review proceedings and consider all views carefully. I hope this is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,



Roy J. Stewart
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

LEONARD L. BOSWELL
3rd DISTRICT, IOWA

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<http://www.house.gov/boswell>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1503

July 26, 2001

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TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE

Ms. Martha Johnston
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8C 453
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

HUB
DTV
2490

Dear Ms. Johnston:

I have received a letter from a constituent regarding the transition from analog to digital television signals. I have enclosed a copy of their correspondence.

I would appreciate your having the appropriate member of your staff review this inquiry and provide me with a written response.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,



Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress

LLB:rm
Enclosure

10. Jul 25 21 06 PM '01

June 29 - 01

JUL 05 2001

The Honorable Lenord Boswell
1029 Longworth House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Boswell

Keep up the good work.
Now I believe that the government
should reconsider making TV stations
have also digital TV by next year or
close down. Most smaller ones probably
could not afford it and would have to
close down. There will be millions of
unhappy - angry viewers who would
miss their favorite programs. Few people
have digital TVs. It would be a great
expense with little profit.

Even though we know digital TV is
coming, TV stations should not be forced
to change quickly - not until more
people have TVs to receive it. They should
have more time to prepare. Let's be reasonable.

Sincerely,

Annelle Koepke
250 S. Ransom St.
Ottumwa, IA
52501 100 293 RM