



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

SEP 12 2001

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CN0102874

Mrs. Martha Porter
1107 Alexander
Houston, Texas 77008

Dear Mrs. Porter:

The White House has asked the Federal Communications Commission to respond to your letter regarding the transition from analog television to digital television (DTV). You express your concerns about the costs of the transition.

As an initial matter, the transition to digital television will have many benefits for the American people. Digital television (DTV) permits broadcasters to offer a variety of valuable new services to the public. It allows broadcasters to offer free television of higher resolution than analog technology (the current mode of TV transmission), with theater-quality pictures and CD-quality sound. Broadcasters are permitted, but not required, to offer High Definition Television. DTV can also provide other program enhancements, such as broadcasting in a variety of languages and captions, as well as transmitting an entire edition of a newspaper, sports information, computer software, telephone directories, stock market updates, interactive educational materials, and any other information that can be translated into digital bits. The DTV bitstream can also be used to transmit multiple programs at the same time, albeit with a trade-off in picture quality. Additionally, and importantly, DTV will provide a more efficient use of broadcast spectrum and allows part of the spectrum to be reallocated for other uses, including the vital communications needs of public safety, police, and fire departments.

The Commission seeks to provide a smooth transition to DTV service with as little disruption to the public as possible. The Commission and Congress have developed a digital television transition schedule that does not call for an end to analog broadcasting until the end of 2006. The termination of analog broadcasting can be delayed by the Commission on a market-by-market basis depending on criteria established by Congress. At the time that deadline was established it was beyond the average lifetime for a television receiver. Accordingly, in many cases, existing television sets would have had to be replaced by end of the transition period in any event. The difference is that now they will be replaced with digital sets rather than analog sets.

During the lengthy transition period to DTV, consumers who wish to rely on analog program service do not have to purchase digital television sets or converters for their current analog sets. These consumers will get many more years of service during the useful lives of their existing sets. Moreover, by the end of the transition period, prices for new digital sets are expected to be more affordable. Additionally, converters can be used with existing televisions to

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE

Page 2—Mrs. Martha Porter

view digital programs, so existing televisions will not be made obsolete by conversion to digital television. (Although viewers using such converters will be able to receive programming broadcast digitally, they will not have access to digital quality enhancements.) Equipment manufacturers estimate that the costs of converters will fall below \$100 before the end of the transition period.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,



Roy J. Stewart
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MMB
DTV
2874

TO: FCC

DATE: 8-20-01

We are forwarding the enclosed constituent mail because your agency is best suited to reply. President Bush would like all Federal agencies to respond to constituent mail in a timely manner. Please return a copy of your agency response and the original incoming correspondence to me at the White House at the following address:

Mail Analysis
Room 58
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20502

If you have questions about these procedures or need to provide updated contact information, you may reach me at (202) 456-5490; by fax at (202) 456-5490; or by email at Gertrude A. Roddick@who.eop.gov

President Bush appreciates your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,



Trudy Roddick
Director
Mail Analysis

JUN 22 10 55 AM '01

MMB
DTV

MA
FCC

1107 ALEXANDER
HOUSTON, TEXAS
77008

JULY 23, 2001
HONORABLE PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 PENNSYLVANIA N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

DEAR MISTER PRESIDENT:

I AM PRAYING FOR YOU EVERY DAY.
I AM SO VERY THANKFUL THE LORD HAS
GIVEN AMERICA A GREAT, GOD-FEARING
PRESIDENT.

"THANK YOU" FOR UNDERTAKING THIS
HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY.

PLEASE USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO STOP
THE F.C.C. FROM MAKING ALL T.V.'S DIGITAL
IF THIS HAPPENS - THERE WILL BE
THOUSANDS LIKE ME, WHO WILL NOT
HAVE A T.V. WE DO GOOD TO KEEP OUR
BILLS PAID: AND WE DO NOT KNOW
BEANS ABOUT COMPUTERS.

I BELIEVE THIS - (ALONG WITH TAKING
THE ONE CENT COIN AWAY) IS THE
BEGINNING OF DOING AWAY WITH

OUR MONEY AND SOVEREIGNTY. IT
SEEMS THERE ARE THOSE AMONG US, WHO
ARE HASTY TO MAKE WAY, FOR THE
"MARK OF THE BEAST."

"THANK YOU" FOR THINKING ON
THESE THINGS.

MAY THE GRACE OF GOD PROTECT
AND GUIDE YOU!

PRAYERFULLY,
(MRS.) MARTHA PORTER
1107 ALEXANDER
HOUSTON, TEXAS, 77008

P.S. WHAT IS WRONG WITH
GOING ON AS WE ARE AND
BEING HAPPY?