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201 Orr Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
December 17, 2001

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 8-A302  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Copps:

I am writing to urge the FCC to approve WQED Pittsburgh's petition to dereserve Channel 16, WQEX, so that it can be sold to Diane Sutter, a broadcaster who knows our community and will serve it well. The proceeds from the sale will be used to retire WQED's debt, to complete the conversion of WQED to a digital facility as required by the FCC, and to invest in programming and other new technologies.

Although it has made great strides in putting its fiscal house in order, WQED continues to experience severe financial distress. This is due in part to the shrinking of the region's corporate donor base, and a steady decline in population, which has permanently undermined the regions' ability to support two noncommercial stations.

WQED's opposition claims to have a broad base of community support, but they do not represent the views of the majority of the region's citizens.

Derreservation of Channel 16 will make possible a stronger WQED as a voice for this community so that it can meet the needs of this region well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With the FCC's grant of WQED's petition and approval of the sale of Channel 16, we will have a financially solid WQED, not one that would lack the resources to achieve the excellence it strives for.

I strongly urge you to act favorably. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Mary Therese Geraci*

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