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From: Harold Smoliar <harold@whitetiegrou.com>
To: <mcopps@fcc.gov>
Date: 12/11/01 3:19PM
Subject: WQED Pittsburgh

Dear Commissioner Copps,

I am a resident of the Pittsburgh area and encourage you to approve the petition to dereserve WQEX so that it can operate as a commercial station in this market.

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 region's ability to support two noncommercial stations.

WQED has always been an important voice for the community and offers acclaimed programming that is responsive to the needs of the people of this region. WQED was especially responsive in the aftermath of the September terrorist attacks and devoted its programming to local reaction and offered resources for the local community to access.

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 21st century. With the FCC's grant of WQED's petition and approval of the sale of Channel 16, one strong noncommercial station in Pittsburgh will replace its current pair of weak stations.

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

Sincerely,

Harold Smoliar

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