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DEC 18 2001

REC'D FROM

December 16, 2001

VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445-12th Street, SW
TW-A325
Washington, DC 20524

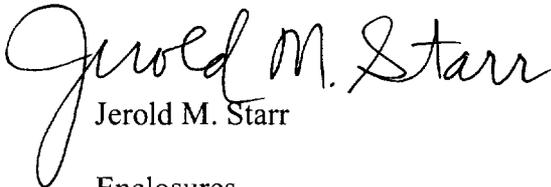
Re: MM Docket No. 01-276/*In the Matter of Amendment of the Television Table of Allotments to Delete Noncommercial Reservation of Channel *16, 482-488 MHz, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

Dear Ms. Magalie Roman Salas:

Attached for filing please find an original and one copy of letters from members of the general public wishing to submit informal comments with respect to the above-referenced proceeding. For the Commission's convenience and in light of the Commission's recent notice regarding the understandable disruption of delivery and processing of mail, we wanted to file these letters by overnight delivery. Accordingly, we would appreciate your filing and distributing the letters as appropriate.

Please let me know if you need any further information. I can be reached at 412-563-4150.

Sincerely,


Jerold M. Starr

Enclosures

cc: Steven A. Lerman, Esq.
Counsel for WQED Pittsburgh

FAIR

Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting

130 West 25th Street • New York, New York 10001

RECEIVED

February 6, 2001

FEB 18 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Mr. Powell:

The U.S. public faces no shortage of commercialized, sensational media. There is, however, a premium on the kind of educational, challenging and diverse material frequently offered on public television. Each and every public TV station is a public resource to be cherished and protected. We write to encourage you and the commission to reject WQED's petition to sell off station WQEX to private ownership.

WQED has had a difficult history, and finds itself in a troubled financial state. But the public should not have to bear the costs of this mismanagement with a loss of valuable programming.

FAIR's research and that of others has shown that the "number two" public TV stations are often the ones most responsive to community needs for varied, local programs. They consistently come closest to fulfilling the goals of public broadcasting to "help us see America whole, in all its diversity." This has been the case in Pittsburgh; and the community that has come to rely on WQEX will be ill-served by its sale to private owners.

If WQED management has lost interest in operating WQEX, then control should be relinquished to a suitable non-profit community or educational entity in Pittsburgh eager to operate the station as a non-commercial, public station.

The public, across the country and in Pittsburgh, has affirmed and re-affirmed its commitment to preserving public television. But you can't protect public television by selling it off station by station to private interests.

Sincerely,



Janine Jackson
Program Director

United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America

JOHN H. HOVIS, JR.
General President

ROBERT L. CLARK
General Secretary-Treasurer

ROBERT B. KINGSLEY
Director of Organization

February 12, 2001



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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Commissioner Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As one of the three national officers of a trade union headquartered in Pittsburgh, I am troubled by WQED's recent proposal to dereserve and sell WQEX. Until WQEX and WQED began simulcasting more than three years ago, WQEX played an important role in our community. Besides showing national programs that were not on WQED, WQEX featured worthwhile programs that focused on matters of local concern. Many supporters of Pittsburgh public television, like myself, would like to see WQEX return to its role as a station that faithfully serves the local, noncommercial, and educational needs of our community.

If WQEX is sold to ShootingStar, however, this will never happen. Instead of keeping a television station whose mission is to offer "a forum for controversy and debate" and "a voice for the voiceless" so that we can see "America whole, in all its diversity," we will be stuck with yet another commercial station that stresses sensationalism over substance. As a resident of Pittsburgh and as someone who has watched as our airwaves have become increasingly cluttered with coarse programming, I cannot stand by idly as we face the possibility of losing this precious resource.

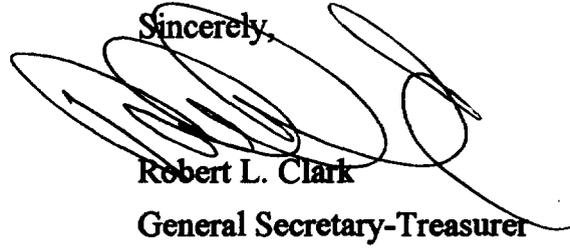
Indeed, it is in the name of our local community that I ask you to reject WQED's request to sell off WQEX. After all, why should we suffer for the mistakes of the WQED board? We did not run up a debt at WQED. If the members of the WQED board want to continue to reduce their debt, they should sell some of the assets that they possess, such as Pittsburgh Magazine.

Furthermore, it is clear that the people of Pittsburgh do not support WQED's request to sell off WQEX. If the board had even the slightest chance of winning our support for their proposal, they would not have had to secretly negotiate the deal. For me, this is perhaps the most troubling aspect of the entire affair--that the WQED board believes it has the right to manage a precious public resource without a drop of input from the public.

In closing, I urge you to protect the public's interest in holding on to television stations that do more than titillate us and pander to us as consumers. Because public television has

a unique capacity to serve us as citizens, it is in the public's interest to see that WQEX remains a public television station.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert L. Clark', written over the typed name and title.

Robert L. Clark

General Secretary-Treasurer

**CC: Steve A. Lerman, Esq.
Commissioner Powell
CIPB Pittsburgh**

Religion and Labor Council of Western Pennsylvania

A Community Based Interfaith Coalition for Social Justice

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
DEC 18 2001
FCC MAIL ROOM

November 26, 2001

Dear Secretary Salas:

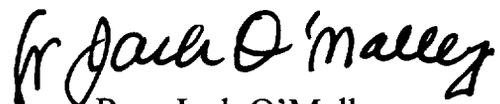
We urge that the Federal Communications Commission reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to sell off a public property—WQEX—to a California commercial enterprise, Shooting Star Inc. We do this on the demonstrated history of WQED mismanagement and its blatant efforts to eliminate its debt by commercializing this public property, but also because of the following:

WQED had sought to enter into a secretive arrangement with Pittsburgh religious Channel 40, an affiliate of the Pat Robertson organization, to do the same before this anti-diversity, sectarian station withdrew from the agreement in 1997. Its management has refused to offer labor and worker-based features despite the fact that the previous WQEX programming had encouraged a weekly “Labor’s Corner” format.

WQED’s petition that the “Pittsburgh economy” has affected the need for two public television outlets is just not true: the recovery in this region preceded the self-imposed debt mismanagement of the station. The alternative to the WQED petition is the formation of Pittsburgh Educational Television, which is a community-based group that would transform WQEX into a true community television station.

The Commission should defend this station as an educational and cultural resource, and not to become another commercial opportunity to profit those who have refused other means to eliminate the debt of WQED.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Jack O'Malley
Coordinator

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

W. PA Chapter of *Physicians for Social Responsibility* - U.S. affiliate of the *International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War*, recipient of 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

PSR-Pittsburgh

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Professor of Computer Science and Psychology
Carnegie Mellon University

Peter M. Winter, M.D.
Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Emeritus
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

(institutions for identification only)
* Nobel Laureate
** deceased

COORDINATOR
Nora Johnson

December 10, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554.

RECEIVED
DEC 18 2001

Re: MM Docket No. 01-276 FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Commissioners:

We want to urge that you reject the proposed dereservation of Channel 16 in Pittsburgh, because the proposed transfer is not in the public interest.

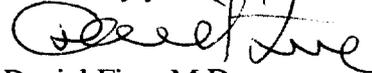
WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED Pittsburgh.

WQEX would provide an opportunity for *Physicians for Social Responsibility* and other respected local civic organizations to present and discuss their perspectives on important public issues. This is not available with the programming of WQED.

The sale proposed by WQED would result in the permanent loss of Channel 16 as a "reserved" channel and loss of one of the two non-commercial public television stations in this region. This would eliminate a resource that is of great value to the broad public and to a wide spectrum of civic non-governmental groups and their memberships.

Please protect this public trust and public resource in this region by denying the proposed loss of Channel 16 as an educational, non-profit channel.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel Fine, M.D.
Program Director

2/01

P.O. Box 7241, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 • Telephone: 412-521-5091 • E-Mail: psrpg@igc.apc.org

Charles and Mary Barr

6505 Stanton Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-441-0328
marybarr@city-net.com

December 10, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
DEC 18 2001
FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: MM Docket # 01-276

Dear Commission Members:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission *not* to dereserve WQEX, one of our two local public television stations.

It is our belief that public access to broadcast media is vital for a healthy democracy and a vibrant culture. It is important for Pittsburgh to keep both of its public television stations.

WQEX in the past was an important source of community-oriented programming. The range of programs it aired was refreshingly diverse, reflective of and responsive to the community it served. WQEX filled a need in that no other station has, since commercial television is geared towards entertainment, and WQED broadcasts mainly national programming.

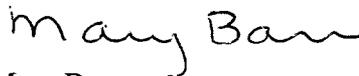
We object to WQED selling WQEX, which is a public trust. Selling an irreplaceable public asset is inexcusable when WQED owns valuable assets like Pittsburgh Magazine. Also, we understand that WQED continues to pay its executives higher salaries than other comparable public stations.

We find it extremely disappointing that despite the large number of channels now available on cable, there is a terrible lack of quality programming. Don't deprive us of WQEX, a unique station that has been responsible to our community.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Barr



Mary Barr

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Steve A. Lerman, Esq.



UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

3811 O'Hara Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2593

February 6, 2001

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DEC 18 2001

The Honorable Michael Powell

Federal Communications Commission

FCC MAIL ROOM

445 12th Street, SW

Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong opposition to the proposed dereservation and sale of WQEX. As a resident of Pittsburgh, a clinical psychologist who specializes in the treatment of eating disorders, and a supporter of public television, I am convinced that the dereservation of WQEX would have a profoundly negative impact upon Pittsburgh.

As a resident of Pittsburgh, I can assure you that selling WQEX to ShootingStar is not in our community's best interest. Why would we need yet one more outlet that will overwhelm us with mindless sitcoms and "Survivor" clones when we have plenty of stations that are already content to offer us this sort of programming? What we need are two distinct and viable public television stations that are serious about serving people as citizens instead of as mere consumers. The board at WQED realizes this. They know that there is neither an urgent need nor a popular mandate for the idea of selling WQEX. Thus, it was entirely predictable that they negotiated the agreement with ShootingStar in such a covert fashion.

As a clinical researcher who specializes in the treatment of eating disorders, I can hardly describe my level of disappointment with the programming offered on WQED and WQEX. On more than one occasion, I have read a review in the *New York Times* of a



UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

3811 O'Hara Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2593

program that is airing on WNET and that deals with eating disorders. On none of these occasions have I seen the same program being broadcast on WQED or WQEX. While I understand that individual PBS stations are free to make their own programming choices, I also believe that the choices each PBS stations makes should be guided by a desire to serve the public in some meaningful way. To look at the programs which are broadcast on WQED during primetime hours, however, is to come across a host of programs that are not only boring but are largely devoid of any intention to serve the public. Thus, instead of programs about eating disorders or some similarly important matter, we are bombarded by light-weight fare. Take, for example, the schedule for this upcoming Saturday evening. From 7:00-8:00 PM, WQED and WQEX are broadcasting re-runs of the "Lawrence Welk" show. From 8:00-11:00PM, WQED and WQEX are broadcasting back to back programs called "The Legendary Victor Borge." Does this material interest you? Does it seem vital to you? Does it any way help us to see "America whole, in all its diversity?" Is re-broadcasting programs which were embraced by the mainstream 20-30 years ago, a way of providing a "voice for groups in the community that may otherwise go unheard?" Unfortunately, the kind of programming that is airing this upcoming Saturday is in no way unusual. I have been tracking the programs that air on WQED for several months now and I would argue that the programs I describe are quite representative of the mind-numbing fare that WQED and WQEX broadcasts. In the long run, it is not important to me whether WQED and WQEX choose to show programs on eating disorders. What is important, however, is that these two stations show programs that endeavor to educate and entertain the public.

As a long-time supporter of public television, I know that it is possible for public television to accomplish these tasks. Over the years, I have derived great pleasure and knowledge from documentaries, Bill Moyers' specials, and series such as *Nova*, *Frontline*, and *Mental Engineering* that have aired on PBS. I see public television as an incredibly important public resource, one that I would deem no less important than other



UPMC HEALTH SYSTEM

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

3811 O'Hara Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2593

resources such as national parks and monuments. To allow WQED to be sold to a commercial broadcaster would send the dangerous signal that public resources are only public until they can be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Certainly, a country like the US, which is currently enjoying the greatest economic boom in its history, does not need to adopt such a reckless and unnecessary attitude.

I hope that my letter has been of some service in helping you to appreciate why WQEX should not be dereserved. Such a decision would be a tragedy and would overlook the wishes of the majority of Pittsburghers who support public television and who have no interest in seeing one of our valuable public resources squandered. Thank you for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Bardone, Ph.D.

Anna M. Bardone, Ph.D.

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

3811 O'Hara Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2593

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DEC 18 2001

PO Box 30

Burgettstown, PA 15021

FCC MAIL ROOM

December 12, 2001

Magalie Roman-Salas
Office of the Secretary
FCC

445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MM Docket No. 01-276
FIN 41314

Upon reviewing the referenced
Memorandum Opinion and Order and
Notice of Proposed Rule Making
adopted 9-27-01, I infer that the
FCC has already ruled in favor of
WQED's plan to privatize WQEX
and to do so without having to
compete against other applicants

planning to operate WQEX as a public trust.

Why would the FCC really be against competition when George W. Bush and his appointed administrators say competition is the "cure-all"? The final FCC decision on this WQED matter will either bolster or betray FCC leaders' words.

So you must rule in favor of the real public interest which is totally independent from WQED's plan.

Our region deserves two public broadcasters. Give Channel *16's license to a non-profit enterprise that wants to run it like a non-commercial, educational broadcaster.

Sincerely, Benita Campbell

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

23 Hindman Avenue
Gettysburg, PA 17041
December 12, 2001

Margie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
FCC

445 12th Street, S.W.

Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

Please award Channel *16's license to a non-profit entity with a business plan to operate it as a non-commercial educational station.

WQED's management doesn't have the right to privatize WQEX for a financial windfall, and the FCC must not be persuaded by claims opposing WQED to sacrifice WQEX to the for-profit sector.

WQED has viable alternatives to solving its self-made debt "crisis"

and the FCC has a viable alternative
to WQED's plan.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs.) Alice Campbell

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DEC 18 2001
FCC MAIL ROOM

Copy

February 2, 2001
Department of Communication
Duquesne University
600 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Mr. Michael K. Powell
Chair
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

I wish to add my voice to the many others in the Pittsburgh area and around the nation opposing the transfer of the noncommercial license of WQEX-TV (Channel 16) to commercial status and the subsequent transfer of the license from QED Communications to ShootingStar, Inc. The transfer request is the antithesis of the public interest doctrine that has always guided federal oversight of broadcasting and telecommunications.

The arguments against the license transfer are no doubt well known to you from the petitions received and your service on the Commission. I think it is important for the Commission to consider that the situation has not changed in favor of the transfer since QED Communications twice before attempted to get Commission approval for the conversion of a noncommercial channel to a commercial channel. In fact, QED Communications' financial situation has improved while their level of service to the people of the Pittsburgh television market has declined since the last time the Commission dealt with the issue. The need for a second alternative television voice in Pittsburgh has, if anything, only increased since the Commission's earlier decision to deny QED the right to profit from the sale of a dedicated noncommercial resource. QED's simulcasting of WQED's signal on WQEX in an attempt to lesson support for the second channel (which has led to the dropping of the signal on some area cable systems) and the founding of Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET) which is willing and able to take over the noncommercial function of the Channel 16 frequency make QED's new petition even more cynical and self-serving. QED Communications continues to treat the Channel 16 noncommercial frequency allocation as private property in complete violation of FCC and Congressional policy on public radio and television.

Why then, beyond an arrogant refusal to accept the earlier verdict of the Commission, is QED Communications again before the Commission? The answer is clearly blatant and, I believe, insulting political opportunism. The beginning of the Bush administration and your appointment to the position of FCC Chair has emboldened QED to seek to overturn the Commission's earlier decision in the belief (hopefully mistaken) that your Commission will be more friendly to the purely selfish interests of broadcasters, even those who have a special obligation to public service. After reading some of your

previous opinions, I truly believe that QED is wrong about your Commission. I am confident that you and your fellow Commissioners will look at the facts, consider the evidence presented by QED and the opposition, and conclude that QED's petition does not meet the stringent test necessary to reassign a noncommercial resource to the commercial sector.

Sincerely,

Robert Bellamy, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Media Communication

cc: Secretary, FCC
Steve A. Lerman, Esq.

Margaret Baum
6346 Ebdy Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15217

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Pittsburgh has already more than enough commercial channels. What we need is a community-responsive public channel that is an alternative to WQED. When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only 1 million a year to operate. This was only a fraction of WQED's budget and WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus.

Please give WQEX a chance to serve the people of this community.

Margaret Baum

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

409 Sunderland Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
December 7, 2001

To: The Federal Communications Commission

Re: The proposed sale of Channel 16

We strongly oppose the sale of Channel 16, a Pittsburgh community resource . Our family has sorely missed the fine commercial-free programming that was once available to us on Channel 16. No other venue offers the quality classic movies, documentaries and British comedies that we regularly enjoyed.

The fallacy that Pittsburgh cannot afford two public broadcasting channels must be dispelled. There are objective statistics to prove that we can! If we can support major sports teams and their separate stadiums, numerous marvelous musical groups and fine museums, to name a few of our treasures, financing can be found for a second public channel.

The public should not be held responsible for rescuing WQED from its past financial mismanagement.

We look forward to hearing that you have considered the people of the Pittsburgh and have made a decision to protect the public interest by continuing to keep Channel 16 a cultural part of our community - a public television channel.

Sincerely,

Martha E. Brethauer
(Mrs. M.J.)
Walter J. Brethauer

WBGN-TV

975 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Voice: 412-922-9576

FAX: 412-921-6937

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DEC 18 2001

February 7, 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Fernando Bohorquez
Institute for Public Representation
Georgetown University Law Center
600 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20001-2022

Dear Mr. Bohorquez,

I am writing to you regarding WQED Pittsburgh's petition to dereserve channel 16, occupied by sister station WQEX, and sell it to ShootingStar Broadcasting. I understand that WQED has requested that its petition be fast tracked. However, under the Administrative Procedure Act and the Commission's longstanding practice, such a change in the rules would require public notice and a reasonable opportunity for the public to comment.

It is my understanding that a local Pittsburgh group is preparing an offer to WQED that equals ShootingStars' offer. This local group would keep WQEX in the hands of the public and give WQED the capital that they are looking to for. I am in favor of this option. As an independent broadcaster concerned with public service, I feel strongly that the people of Pittsburgh must be afforded ample opportunity to comment on the potential loss of this valued public trust.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ron Bruno

RECEIVED

February 6, 2001

DEC 18 2001

The Honorable Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I am writing to you in connection with WQED's proposal to dereserve WQEX. I serve as the coordinator for the Pittsburgh chapter of Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting (CIPB). As the group's name suggests, CIPB is dedicated to ensuring that public television remains a vital and independent media outlet. If our goals—to see that public television becomes "a forum for controversy and debate" and "a voice for groups in the community that may otherwise be unheard" so that we can "see America whole, in all its diversity—sound familiar, it is because they are modeled upon the work of the Carnegie Commission which introduced the concept of public television some thirty-four years ago. Like the members of the Carnegie Commission, we recognize that public television has the capacity to serve as an important public resource in our democracy.

Unfortunately, this public resource is being threatened in Pittsburgh. As you know, WQED is proposing to dereserve WQEX and to sell this station to ShootingStar. According to public comments made by WQED board chairman Tom McGough, this sale represents a "tremendous step for this organization." While this proposal may indeed appear to be a tremendous step for cash-strapped accountants at WQED, it is a tremendous step backwards for faithful supporters of public broadcasting in Pittsburgh.

After three years of enduring the inexcusable simulcasting of WQED and WQEX, you might wonder how any action pursued by the WQED board could be labeled "a tremendous step backwards." After all, would not the loss of countless programs that focus on local matters and the squandering of a public television station represent an absolute nadir? Unfortunately, I would argue that this is not the case. While the simulcasting practice was deplorable, it was one that dedicated followers of public television trusted would someday end. Indeed, given that WQEX has historically turned

a small profit, we were confident that a buyer interested in keeping the station public would eventually emerge. (In fact, there is an organization, Pittsburgh Educational Television, which is currently drafting a business plan to keep WQEX as a public television station and to operate the station in a manner that truly serves our community.) If WQED's proposal to dereserve WQEX is successful, however, we understand that there is little hope that Pittsburgh will ever regain its second public television station.

WQED's board members also understand this point. They did not ask Pittsburghers whether they wanted one fewer public television station. They did not announce that they were exploring the possibility of selling WQEX. Instead, the board authorized WQED President George Miles to cut a secret deal to sell the station. Is this any way to manage a public resource? Was it ethical to keep the public in the dark until the deal with ShootingStar had been finalized?

WQED board chairman Tom McGough maintains that the board acted properly in this matter. On the day that the proposed sale of WQEX was announced, McGough stated, "I'm as big a fan of public meetings as any person who draws a breath. There are circumstances-and I believe this is one-in which the deal may not have been accomplished if we had tried to negotiate this in public." What McGough and the rest of the WQED board appear to have forgotten is that whether or not they are "fans" of public meetings, public resources need to be managed in such a way that allows and, in fact, insists upon input from the public. To cut a secret deal and then to claim, as McGough did at the January 25 WQED board meeting, that he was "absolutely convinced we did the deal the right way" is to acknowledge that public input was not valued in the decision to sell WQEX.

This is a shame. Public television was never intended to be ruled by one clique; it was intended to serve the entire citizenry. Like famous observers such as Thomas Jefferson and John Dewey, the founders of public television recognized that a democracy can only thrive in the presence of a well-informed and educated citizenry. Public television was intended to be a tool in the efforts to educate, inform, and entertain Americans. While public television often fails to fully achieve these goals, it comes closer to achieving them than does any commercial television network in the US.

Pittsburghers deserve the right to hold on to our two different public television stations. We deserve the right to be heard when we say "no" to a WQED board that does not ask us for our input. Finally, we deserve the right to see programs that focus upon public affairs, that allow historically marginalized groups to speak, and that do not shy away from contentious issues. I hope and trust that you will affirm your support for us by denying the request to dereserve WQEX.

Sincerely,

Matthew Cone

Matthew Cone

Coordinator, Pittsburgh Chapter of Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting

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DEC 18 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Commissioners,

Will you please consider seriously to keeping Channel 16 a public station for the good of the whole people of the area.

Thank you,
Mildred Barlow Cook

2430 Mina Dr
Allison Park, Pa 15109

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2001

R.D.1, Box 509
Fayette City, PA 15438
November 15, 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WQEX Channel 16, Pittsburgh, PA (and sister station WQED, Channel 13, Pittsburgh)

I am protesting the dereserve and sale of WQEX Channel 16 to ShotingStar, Inc. WQEX Channel 16 is a valuable community resource for noncommercial educational programming. For many years it was my favorite TV channel. It had by far the best programs. I really miss it. Today I watch the news on regular network channels and occasionally watch a program on WQED Channel 13. Now I read a lot.

WQEX Channel 16 is a public trust awarded to the people of the Pittsburgh area for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED, Pittsburgh.

I have nothing against children's shows, but WQED consists largely of children's shows all during the day. WQEX was once the third most watched "second station" in the country. We need it now more than ever.

When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus. WQED has admitted to the FCC that it is not in danger of going dark.

WQED has rejected bids from not-for-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station because they weren't willing to give CEO George Miles the huge windfall he has demanded, far in excess of the real market value of a non-commercial station. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), a community initiative, has a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel 16. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this community.

Sincerely;


Jean R. Croushore

Copy to: Steve A. Lerman, Esq.
Leventhal, Senter & Lerman, P.L.L.C.
2000 K Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Kate Daher
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Pittsburgh, PA 15221
412-243-3197, katedaher@hotmail.com

December 8, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554.

Dear Ms. Salas:

I urge the Federal Communications Commission to reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to commercialize and sell sister station WQEX (Channel 16) to ShootingStar, Inc. As a public high school teacher who has a great interest in educational programs and broadcasting, I believe that Channel 16 must be preserved for noncommercial educational use. Pittsburgh is a thriving city and Channel 16 represents a resource that could provide valuable alternative programming in the public interest. We do not need yet another commercial station. What we do need is a viable alternative to more commercial stations and that's what Channel 16 must become for our community.

Also, I reject the empty promise of more digital channels made by WQED. They already plan to use some of them for commercial purposes.

Permitting WQED to cash in our educational station for a \$20 million windfall would set a dangerous precedent for other reserved channels as well.

Apparently, WQED no longer wants to provide programming on Channel 16, as can be seen by its proposal to sell off this community asset and by the fact that it has been simulcasting on Channels 13 and 16 for four years. Thus, please invite applications from other noncommercial educational organizations that may better serve the interest of Pittsburgh and our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Daher
Social studies teacher
Pittsburgh Public Schools