

EXHIBIT A

Representative Selection of Letters and Messages
in Support of the Dereservation of the WQEX Frequency

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802

January 5, 2001

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

We are writing you again concerning a matter of great importance to the preservation of public television in the Pittsburgh community. We seek your immediate consideration of this matter.

As you know, for over four years, WQED Pittsburgh, the licensee of public television station WQED, has sought relief from your agency with the help and support of our respective offices to alleviate its severe financial distress. Over the years, WQED has survived only by terminating dozens of employees, cutting back on production, simulcasting its programming on its sister station, WQEX, postponing new local programming, and diverting needed funds to service massive debt. This situation would be dramatically reversed if the FCC would grant WQED's forthcoming petition to "dereserve" WQEX, and then approve its application for assignment of the WQEX license to ShootingStar, Inc. The proposed buyer is headed by Diane Sutter, an experienced broadcaster who is a Pittsburgh native.

We wrote your predecessor on June 19, 1996, in support of the original petition filed by WQED for the dereservation of Channel 16, WQEX. Under that proposal, the resulting proceeds of the sale of WQEX as a commercial station would have been invested into the public television operations of WQED. The petition was pursuant to a provision we supported which was included in P.L. 104-134, allowing the FCC to expeditiously convert WQEX's channel to a commercial frequency and thereby make it a marketable property. Ultimately, the FCC denied WQED's petition, but this was largely because WQED had a unique backup plan that permitted retention of WQEX's noncommercial reservation.

At your agency's urging, WQED pursued the backup plan, and we wrote you and your predecessor twice urging approval of WQED's application to assign the WQEX license to Cornerstone Television, Inc. Although the Commission approved the application, the transaction failed to close.

Out of necessity and in an effort to better serve its viewers, WQED is again seeking relief from the FCC. The licensee has now entered into a binding agreement to sell WQEX to a fully-qualified female broadcaster with roots in the Pittsburgh community, conditioned on converting the WQEX frequency to a commercial channel. Again, the proceeds would be used to shore up WQED and thereby assure the future of public broadcasting in western Pennsylvania. We fully support the proposed transaction as a means of alleviating the financial distress which has disabled WQED from fulfilling its mission.

Consistent with the provision we included in P.L. 104-134, we are urging you to act promptly on WQED's forthcoming petition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter



Rick Santorum

MIKE DOYLE
18TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY

COMMERCE, TRADE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

CO-CHAIR:

COALITION FOR AUTISM
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Michael K. Powell

Chairman

Federal Communications Commission

Room 8-B201

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20554



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

August 2, 2001

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(412) 864-4048

E-MAIL:
rep.doyle@mail.house.gov

WEB SITE:
http://www.house.gov/doyle

Dear Chairman Powell:

As Members of Congress representing southwestern Pennsylvania, we are writing to urge you to approve the petition filed January 9, 2001, by WQED Pittsburgh requesting the dereservation of WQEX, WQED's secondary television station, to permit its sale to a company headed by Pittsburgh native Diane Sutter.

Please advise us as to why the FCC has taken no action on WQED's petition in the nearly seven months since it was filed. WQED has requested relief from its financial distress from the FCC for several years now, and as correspondence from several of us to you earlier this year pointed out, approval of the petition is of great importance in assuring that our region will benefit from a strong public television presence well into this century. Continuing regulatory inaction not only leaves WQED unable to plan its future and uncertain of its ability to fully implement the promise of digital television, it also jeopardizes a transaction that will bring a new media voice to our region.

We would appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Frank Mascara
Member of Congress

John P. Murtha
Member of Congress

Melissa A. Hart
Member of Congress

JAMES E. CASORIO, JR., MEMBER

HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 783-3483
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SUITE 204, BUILDING #1
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QUEST BUILDING
2030 ADER ROAD
PENN TOWNSHIP
JEANNETTE, PENNSYLVANIA 15644
(TUESDAY A.M.)



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

February 14, 2001

COMMITTEES

LABOR RELATIONS
LIQUOR CONTROL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COUNTIES
POLICY

CAUCUSES

FIREFIGHTERS, SECRETARY
LOCAL TAX REFORM
SOUTHWEST CAUCUS
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

APPOINTMENTS

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC TELEVISION
NETWORK COMMISSION

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

COPY

Dear Chairman Powell:

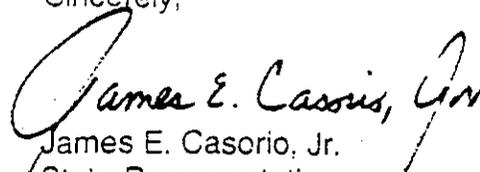
I am a resident of the Pittsburgh area and an avid viewer of public television. I am writing you to express my support for the petition recently filed by WQED Pittsburgh requesting the conversion of WQEX from a noncommercial to a commercial station. I believe the FCC should grant the petition because viewers like me will benefit.

WQED Pittsburgh plays an important role in our community. For many years, it has provided high quality children's, educational and public affairs programming free of charge. Unfortunately, the current economic climate makes it impossible for WQED Pittsburgh to continue to operate its two noncommercial stations at the same time. The sale of WQEX, however, will solve WQED Pittsburgh's financial troubles by enabling it to retire its large debt. It will also enable the station to invest in new programming and equipment. The resulting financial stability will help ensure that WQED Pittsburgh is able to meet the public television needs of the community for years to come.

I believe that the approval of WQED Pittsburgh's petition is in the best interest of the Pittsburgh community, and urge your support for it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


James E. Casorio, Jr.
State Representative

cc: Angela Campbell
JC/ka



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

February 26, 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8- B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

WQED Pittsburgh has asked the FCC to convert one of its stations (WQEX) from a noncommercial station to a commercial station. I am writing you to express my support for the petition because it will be good for the Pittsburgh community.

By converting WQEX and allowing its sale to a commercial broadcaster, television viewers in Pittsburgh will have more viewing choices than before, and a stronger WQED which will better meet the needs of the entire community. I understand that WQED Pittsburgh hopes to sell WQEX to a company headed by Diane Sutter, a Pittsburgh native with many years of experience as a broadcaster. The addition of a new commercial station headed by an experienced Pittsburgher can only benefit our community.

The sale of WQEX will allow WQED Pittsburgh to use the proceeds of said sale to solve its current financial crisis. Following the sale, Pittsburgh would have a strong noncommercial station instead of two weak ones. Certainly, if WQED Pittsburgh is to remain a leading provider of educational; cultural; and informational programming to all of southwestern Pennsylvania, it must do so from a position of strength.

When reviewing WQED's petition, I urge you to consider that a strong WQED will be able to serve this diverse community even better than it does already. Thanking you in

page two

advance for your time and serious consideration of this request, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DAVE MAYERNIK". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David J. Mayernik
State Representative
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

cc: Mr. George Miles
Mr. George Hazimanolis
Angela J. Campbell

RALPH KAISER, MEMBER
CASTLE VILLAGE MALL, SUITE 128
BAPTIST & GROVE ROADS
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15236-1525
PHONE: (412) 884-1066

226 SOUTH OFFICE BUILDING
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RESIDENCE:
121 KOEGLER AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15227
(BRENTWOOD BOROUGH)
PHONE: (412) 884-5792



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOR
HOUSING
INSURANCE
LABOR RELATIONS

SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS
FIREFIGHTERS' & EMERGENCY
SERVICES LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

February 12, 2001

**Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554**

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am a resident of the Pittsburgh area and an avid viewer of public television. I am writing you to express my support for the petition recently filed by WQED Pittsburgh requesting the conversion of WQEX from a noncommercial to commercial station. I believe the FCC should grant the petition because viewers like me will benefit.

WQED Pittsburgh plays an important role in our community. For more than 40 years, it has provided high quality children's educational and public affairs programming free of charge. Unfortunately, the current economic climate makes it impossible for WQED Pittsburgh to continue to operate its two noncommercial stations at the same time. The sale of WQEX, however, will solve WQED Pittsburgh's financial troubles by enabling it to retire its large debt. It will also enable the station to invest in new programming and equipment. The resulting financial stability will help ensure that WQED Pittsburgh is able to meet the public television needs of the community for years to come.

For this reason, I urge you to support the WQED Pittsburgh petition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ralph Kaiser'.

**Ralph Kaiser
State Representative
41st District**

cc: Angela Campbell

117 E. 4TH AVENUE
CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA 19428
PHONE: (610) 397-0505
FAX: (610) 397-0508
E-MAIL:
lcohen@pahousegop.com

LITA INDZEL COHEN, MEMBER

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MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2020
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APPOINTMENTS

CHAIR, TASK FORCE ON
DOMESTIC RELATIONS
COMMISSIONER, PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC TELEVISION
NETWORK COMMISSION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TASK FORCE
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN CAUCUS
LEGISLATIVE FIREFIGHTERS AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES CAUCUS

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 26, 2001

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CRIME AND CORRECTIONS
URBAN AFFAIRS
CHILDREN & YOUTH
POLICY

Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to express my support for the petition submitted to the FCC by WQED Pittsburgh, asking the commission to convert WQEX from a noncommercial station to a commercial station.

The sad fact is that the current economic climate in Pittsburgh makes it impossible for WQED Pittsburgh to continue to operate its two noncommercial stations at the same time. The sale of WQEX, however, which hinges in its conversion to a commercial station, will solve WQED Pittsburgh's financial troubles by enabling it to retire its large debt. It will also enable the station to invest in new programming and equipment. The resulting financial stability will help ensure a stronger WQED Pittsburgh, able to meet the public television needs of the community for many more years. Pittsburgh would have one strong noncommercial station instead of two weak ones.

I understand that, if permitted, WQED Pittsburgh hopes to sell WQEX to a commercial broadcasting company headed by Diane Sutter, a Pittsburgh native with many years of experience as a broadcaster. I have known Diane Sutter for many years and I am pleased to attest to her character and her administrative abilities.

I urge you to support the WQED Pittsburgh petition. By converting WQEX and permitting its sale to a commercial broadcaster, television viewers in Pittsburgh will have more viewing choices than before.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lita".

LITA INDZE COHEN
State Representative
148th Legislative District

cc: Angela Campbell

LIC:cao

42nd SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALLEGHENY COUNTY

HARRISBURG OFFICE
SENATE BOX 203042
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3042
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DISTRICT OFFICE
KENNEDY TOWNSHIP
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McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136-1575
(412) 442-5836
FAX: (412) 442-5839



Senate of Pennsylvania

JACK WAGNER
SENATOR

COMMITTEES

BANKING AND INSURANCE - MINORITY CHAIRMAN

APPROPRIATIONS

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
POLICY COMMITTEE
RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

PA FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY
SERVICES LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

PA VETERANS'
MEMORIAL COMMISSION

PA COAL CAUCUS

TASK FORCE ON ADOPTION LAW

E-MAIL ADDRESS: wagner@dem.pasen.gov
WEB PAGE ADDRESS: www.senatorwagner.com

February 27, 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

CONF

Dear Chairman Powell:

WQED Pittsburgh has asked the FCC to convert one of its stations, WQEX, from a noncommercial station to a commercial station. I am writing you to express my support for the petition because it will be good for the Pittsburgh community.

By converting WQEX and allowing its sale to a commercial broadcaster, television viewers in Pittsburgh will have more viewing choices than before. They will also have a stronger WQED. I understand that WQED Pittsburgh hopes to sell WQEX to a company that is run by Diana Sutter, a Pittsburgh native with many years of experience as a broadcaster. The addition of a new commercial station headed by an experienced Pittsburgher can only benefit the community.

At the same time, the sale of WQEX will allow WQED Pittsburgh to use the proceeds to solve its current financial crisis. Following the sale, Pittsburgh would have one strong noncommercial station instead on two weak ones. Certainly if WQED Pittsburgh is to remain a leading provider of educational, cultural and informational programming to all of southwestern Pennsylvania, it must do so from a position of strength.

February 27, 2001
Page Two

When reviewing the WQED petition, I urge you to consider that a strong WQED will be able to serve this diverse community even better than it does already. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

COPY
JACK WAGNER

cc: Angela Campbell
:lg



County of Allegheny

101 COURTHOUSE • 436 GRANT STREET
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219
PHONE (412) 350-6500 • FAX (412) 350-6512

JAMES C. RODDEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

February 1, 2001

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

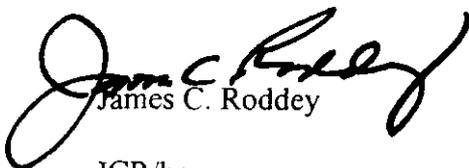
WQED Pittsburgh has asked the FCC to convert one of its stations (WQEX) from a noncommercial station to a commercial station. I am writing you to express my support for the petition because it will be good for the Pittsburgh community.

By converting WQEX and allowing its sale to a commercial broadcaster, television viewers in Pittsburgh will have more viewing choices than before and a stronger WQED which will better meet the needs of the entire community. I understand that WQED Pittsburgh hopes to sell WQEX to a company headed by Diane Sutter, a Pittsburgh native with many years of experience as a broadcaster. The addition of a new commercial station headed by an experienced Pittsburgher can only benefit the community.

At the same time, the sale of WQEX will allow WQED Pittsburgh to use the proceeds to solve its current financial crisis. Following the sale, Pittsburgh would have one strong noncommercial station instead of two weak ones. Certainly if WQED Pittsburgh is to remain a leading provider of educational, cultural and informational programming to all of southwestern Pennsylvania, it must do so from a position of strength.

When reviewing the WQED Petition, I urge you to consider that a strong WQED will be able to serve this diverse community even better than it does already. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


James C. Roddey

JCR/hep

cc: Angela Campbell



County of Washington

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
100 WEST BEAU STREET, SUITE 702
WASHINGTON, PA 15301

JOHN P. BEVEC, CHAIRMAN
DIANA L. IREY
J. BRACKEN BURNS, SR.
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
(724) 228-6724

MARLENE LUKETICH
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
(724) 228-6725
CATHERINE E. KRESH
CHIEF CLERK
(724) 228-6723
FAX: (724) 228-6065

February 14, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8 – B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Powell:

WQED Pittsburgh has long been a part of the Pittsburgh region and, thus, Washington County. We have significant regard for the fine educational, children's and public affairs programming that the station has provided over the years. However, we are also aware of the unfortunate financial difficulty with operating both WQED and WQEX.

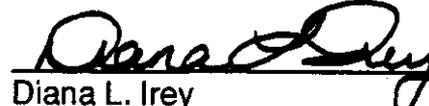
The current proposal to allow WQEX to be purchased for a commercial station will allow WQED Pittsburgh to settle its debt, yet continue to serve the region in a noncommercial capacity. We see this as a viable solution to a long standing problem at WQED. Granting the petition will be the impetus in creating a new and improved WQED to benefit the entire Pittsburgh region.

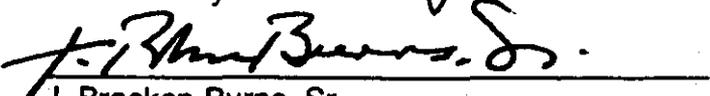
The Washington County Commissioners support the Petition presented by WQED Pittsburgh and encourage you to consider the value in granting its approval.

Sincerely,

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


John P. Bevec, Chairman


Diana L. IreY


J. Bracken Burns, Sr.

JPB/DLI/JBB:jad

xc: Angela J. Campbell, Georgetown University Law Center
George L. Miles, Jr., WQED Pittsburgh

AFRICAN AMERICAN  CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

February 9, 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

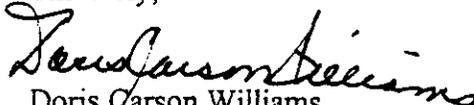
Dear Chairman Powell:

I am a resident of the Pittsburgh area and an avid viewer of public television. I am writing to you to express my support for the petition recently filed by WQED Pittsburgh requesting the conversion of WQEX from a noncommercial to a commercial station. I believe the FCC should grant the petition because viewers like me will benefit.

WQED Pittsburgh plays an important role in our community. For more than 40 years, it has provided high quality children's, educational and public affairs programming free of charge. Unfortunately, the current economic climate makes it impossible for WQED Pittsburgh to continue to operate its two noncommercial stations at the same time. The sale of WQEX, however, will solve WQED Pittsburgh's financial troubles by enabling it to retire its large debt. It will also enable the station to invest in new programming and equipment. The resulting financial stability will help ensure that WQED Pittsburgh is able to meet the public television needs of the community for years to come.

For this reason, I urge you to support the WQED Pittsburgh petition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Doris Carson Williams
President

cc: Angela Campbell

MARISS JANSONS
Music Director



PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

GIDEON TOEPLITZ
Executive Vice President and
Managing Director

January 23, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner:

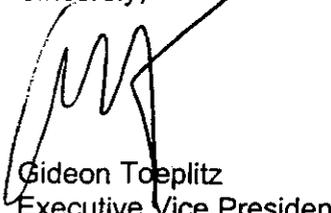
I have been a member of WQED Pittsburgh for twelve years and am writing to urge you to support its petition seeking to switch WQEX from a noncommercial station to a commercial station. I believe that this step is necessary to ensure the future of public television in Pittsburgh.

As a long-time supporter, I am proud of the many educational and cultural programs that WQED Pittsburgh offers. However, I am also aware of WQED Pittsburgh's current financial plight. Where once the Pittsburgh community could afford two donor-supported stations, economic realities make this impossible today. The burden of supporting two stations is made all the more difficult given the costs associated with the FCC-mandated conversion to digital television, a technology that promises enhanced programming capabilities but at a very high cost.

Your decision to switch WQEX from a noncommercial to a commercial station will go a long way towards making WQED Pittsburgh strong once again. Granting the petition would enable WQED Pittsburgh to sell WQEX and, with the proceeds, pay off its debts and fund future technologies. As an added benefit, the sale of WQEX will enrich the community by adding a new commercial television station headed by a Pittsburgh native.

I believe that the approval of WQED Pittsburgh's petition is in the best interest of the Pittsburgh community, and urge your support for it. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gideon Toeplitz
Executive Vice President
and Managing Director

GT/lgd

cc: Angela Campbell

Allegheny County Labor Council

Allegheny County and Pittsburgh, PA AFL-CIO

Jack Shea, President
I.U.E. District Council

Joseph Zunic, Treasurer
Pittsburgh Federation Teachers Local 400

Jim Klingensmith, Executive Vice President
S.E.I.U. Local 585



Pat Fagan, Executive Council
Sheetmetal Workers Local 12

John Vento, COPE Director
UFCW Local 23

Joseph J. Pass, Attorney
Jubeliner, Pass & Intriari, P.C.

George L. Miles, Jr., President & CEO
WQED
4802 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

November 19, 2001

Dear Mr. Miles:

The Allegheny County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, voted to rescind the December 5, 1996 resolution that opposed the sale of WQEX. Our Executive Board recommended that this action be approved and it was at the Thursday, November 1, 2001 Delegates Meeting.

This action recognizes and supports the labor representatives that sit on both the WQED Board of Directors and the Community Advisory Board. They are involved with decisions that impact the more than 80,000 members that the ACLC represents.

We will continue to monitor WQED's efforts. We anticipate that the proposed technological changes will eventually provide more programming options, greater flexibility, and more access than what had previously been the case.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any issue or concern. The ACLC hopes to foster a close relationship between the labor community and WQED to further the educational, economic, and entertainment concerns of the people of Allegheny County and the surrounding counties.

In Unity,

Jack Shea
Jack Shea, President
ACLC, AFL-CIO

Cc: Leon Lynch
Bill Waterkotte
Sylvia Wilson

JS/bwopciu#457



Jeffrey C. Harshman
Senior Vice President
Pittsburgh Major Market

300 Corliss Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15220-4816
412 875-1100
FAX 412 331-7452

November 27, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Sale of WQEX

Dear Chairman Powell:

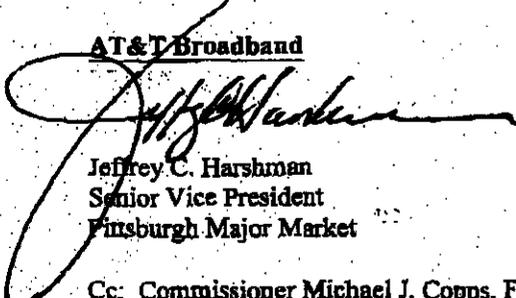
In my position as Senior Vice President of AT&T Broadband, which serves over 600,000 customers in the greater Pittsburgh area, I wholeheartedly support the sale of WQEX and its return to the commercial TV arena. For far too long, Pittsburgh-area viewers have been forced by the must-carry rule to effectively lose a channel on their local television lineups to duplicated programming.

WQED is a first-rate public broadcaster; however, it is clearly lacking the financial resources to provide WQEX with a future, and its continued ownership of the property may even threaten its financial viability. In contrast, the sale of WQEX to Shooting Star Broadcasting will provide WQED with a badly needed infusion of cash to support its primary mission of providing quality public broadcasting. At the same time, the sale will provide the area with another commercial television outlet, in a market that clearly has room for another commercial broadcaster.

I urge you to look with favor upon the Shooting Star petition and allow this sale to go through. This transaction clearly serves the best interests of all concerned parties: WQED, Shooting Star and the public.

Respectfully,

AT&T Broadband


Jeffrey C. Harshman
Senior Vice President
Pittsburgh Major Market

Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps, FCC
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, FCC
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin, FCC
Angela J. Campbell, Pittsburgh Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting
George Hazimanolis, WQED
Diane Sutter, Shooting Star Broadcasting



November 27, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a long-time resident of Pittsburgh, the father of two teenage daughters, and Vice President of the Pittsburgh Pirates I have enjoyed a very close relationship with WQED and Public Broadcasting over the years.

It is my opinion, and for reasons I hope to articulate that the sales of WQEX to Shooting Star Broadcasting is in the best interests of the community,

First of all, dereservation will make a stronger WQED voice in the community.

Secondly, the sale will enable WQED to move forward in rectifying its financial woes. These are the result of a shrinking community base trying to support two non-commercial stations. With the sale WQED will be able to meet the public television needs well into the 21st century.

In addition, Pittsburgh as a major market is under commercialized in the area of TV. A new strong station headed by an experienced broadcasting executive like Diane Sutter would be a great asset to the community.

In conclusion, I must tell you I was compelled to write this letter after watching television last evening. I observed the programming on WQED and WQEX was identical at the same time. This observation has led me to articulate that we must find a better use for WQEX, which in turn will provide is a stronger WQED.

I believe this should be our goal, and one I think is shared by most of the community.

I would appreciate your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

Steven N. Greenberg
Vice President, Ballpark Development and Communications

SNG:dmb

Ballpark at North Shore
Federal Street
Pittsburgh PA 15212
412.500.5000

www.pittsburghpirates.com



March 16, 2001

Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman
FCC
1919 M Street N.W., Suite 814
Washington, DC 20554

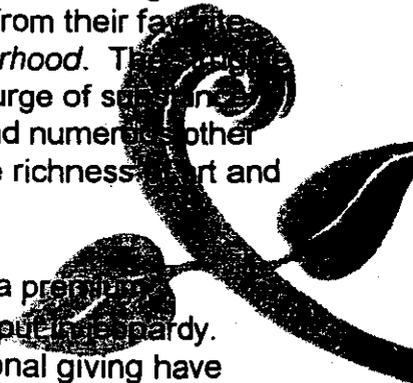
Dear Mr. Hundt:

As an educator, an active member of the Pittsburgh community and a dedicated supporter of the arts, I write to express my unqualified support for WQED-TV's request for permission to convert the license of its sister station, WQEX-TV, from non-commercial to commercial status.

As President of Carlow College, a liberal arts college primarily for women, and a lifelong resident of Pittsburgh, I have long valued the important role WQED plays in both the region's past and its future. A pioneer in educational and informational programming, WQED was the nation's first community-owned television station. For decades WQED has given a forum and a face to a host of social concerns, including substance abuse, illiteracy, violence, and prejudice. And through a variety of documentaries and local programs, it continues to creatively chronicle our historically significant and culturally diverse region.

More than a local community resource, WQED has provided programming that has reached beyond the boundaries of western Pennsylvania to enrich lives throughout the country. Generations of children have begun their days with visits from their favorite neighbor, Pittsburgh's own Fred Rogers, of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. The scourge of countless individuals whose lives have been touched by the scourge of substance abuse was addressed through the series *The Chemical People*. And numerous other series produced by WQED have brought the wonders of nature, the richness of art and the beauty of music into homes from coast to coast.

With financial resources for the arts and education continuously at a premium, revenues for critically needed operational expenses must never be put in jeopardy. Sadly, government cost-cutting and reduced individual and institutional giving have threatened the operations of this critical resource. Staff and budgetary reductions have not been enough to lift WQED from a state of urgent financial distress. A practical solution to alleviating WQED's debt: Converting WQEX's license from non-commercial to commercial so that the station could be sold for a fair market price.



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Mr. Reed Hundt
March 16, 2001
Page 2

If the conversion of WQEX's license to commercial is approved, WQED has pledged to use the proceeds of a sale to pay off its debt, prepare for conversion to digital broadcasting and dedicate any remaining funds to an endowment which will fund non-commercial programming for the region. The resulting financial stability may also allow the station to expand to 24-hour broadcast service, enabling the station to serve public television needs well into the 21st century. The bottom line: Without the sale, Pittsburgh faces losing *both* of our non-commercial stations, as the financial failure of WQED would inevitably take WQEX off the air as well.

But the possibility of a stronger, more viable WQED is not the only reason to support the conversion of WQEX's license. By selling the station to a commercial interest, Pittsburgh's television viewers will benefit from new and varied programming choices. And the fact that the potential buyer, ShootingStar Broadcasting, is owned by Diane Sutter, a woman with a veteran broadcasting career and a Pittsburgh native, serves to deepen my belief that approval of the license conversion is in the best interest of television viewers throughout the region and the country.

I urge you to support the conversion of WQEX's license from non-commercial to commercial status, and help to ensure that WQED will continue to educate, entertain, and enrich the lives of generations to come.

Sincerely,



Grace Ann Geibel, RSM, Ph.D.
President

cc: Angela Campbell
/bg

✓ bcc: George Miles

HIGHMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD

February 5, 2001

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I write in support of WQED's Petition to the FCC to restore WQEX's frequency to its original commercial designation. The success of WQED is vital to the Pittsburgh region and beyond. Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield has sponsored "Agewise", a WQED Program, for many years. This program has brought great value to the residents of our area.

Often, it is necessary to cast off in order to build up. That is the position in which WQED finds itself. We in Pittsburgh applaud the visionary leadership CEO George Miles has brought to this community. Although he has taken great strides in putting WQED's fiscal house in order, the Station remains deeply in debt, due in part to the shrinking of the corporate donor base in Pittsburgh. Compounding WQED's fiscal woes is the FCC-mandated conversion to digital television, which will cost the station as estimated \$8.7 million. These demands are in addition to badly needed repairs to its physical plant at an estimated cost of \$3 million.

With the sale of Channel 16, WQED would be able to meet the public television needs of the community well into the 21st century. Therefore, granting WQED's position is vital. The prospective purchaser of Channel 16 has a long history with the Pittsburgh area and we continue our efforts to attract individuals that will advance the overall community. Her role as the founder of the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation's Broadcast Leadership Training Program to advance women and minority broadcasters as group executives and station owners attest to her vision.

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.

For the reasons herein stated, I urge you to support the WQED Petition.

Sincerely,

Aaron A. Walton, Sr. Vice President
Strategic Community and Health Initiatives

cc: Angela Campbell

February 20, 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael,

For heaven's sake, let's get Pittsburgh's WQEX sold... how can you possibly keep delaying when it's a win-win-win situation for the viewers, WQED and Diane Sutter, the buyer?

The nicest (and probably the only) good thing about being old and in the public relations business as long as I have been is knowing names like Diane Sutter from way back when she was a successful radio entrepreneur in Pittsburgh. Just what everyone looks for in ownership of a property like WQEX... creativity, sensitivity, and understanding accountability to her listeners and viewers.

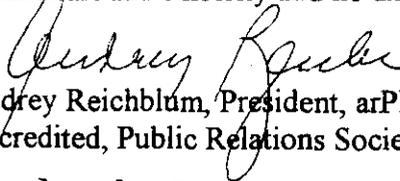
Help us get WQED out of debt. As the first educational station in the country, it seems to me that their past mistakes and less-than-stellar fiscal management can be chalked up to a learning experience and experiment in programming and approaches. Now the management is ready to move on.

Let them move on. They're running a tight ship; we as contributors are getting more than our money's worth as to programming; and its future into multimedia production.

To block this petition is to block progress in the name of "idealism" or "less than stellar" motives.

Enough already. Give us one good reason to stop the sale and we who are true fans of the programming of public broadcasting will give you ten in favor of...

With heart and sincerity and no ax to grind nor anything to gain except knowledge...


Audrey Reichblum, President, arPR, inc.
Accredited, Public Relations Society of America

cc: Angela Campbell



Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council

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February 8, 2001

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Mr. Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing about the petition submitted by WQED Pittsburgh for the conversion of a noncommercial station to a commercial station. I am in favor of the petition.

I have an interesting background with this particular matter. Approximately ten years ago, I was in close communication with Margot Woodwell, then the vice president and station manager of WQED. Ms. Woodwell was telling me how excited she was to be renewing the license of WQEX, a long-dormant educational station that had not been on the air for some years. She was involved in purchasing and installing a transmitter for the station, and it was under her guidance that WQEX came back to life. I shared her excitement at that time.

Times do change. Although WQEX gathered quite a following during the intervening years, it simply has become an economic impossibility for WQED Pittsburgh to maintain two public television stations. I imagine that most markets of Pittsburgh's size cannot afford such a luxury in today's overcrowded television marketplace. Therefore I urge you to accept WQED's petition and permit that fine organization to focus on its one successful television station and its non-television enterprises.

Some consumer advocacy groups may say that they want another educational station in Pittsburgh, but they have not convinced me that they have found a way to pay for it. Therefore, I urge you to approve the petition. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Donald G. Block
Executive Director

bc: George Hazimanolis, WQED

cc: Angela Campbell



Markos I. Tambakeras
President and
Chief Executive Officer
1600 Technology Way
P.O. Box 231
Latrobe, PA 15650-0231
Phone: 724-539-5894
www.kennametal.com

February 6, 2001

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 1,000 employees of Kennametal Inc. who reside in western Pennsylvania. I know many of our employees avidly support public television in Pittsburgh -- WQED. Collectively, we are expressing support for the petition recently filed by WQED to convert WQEX from a noncommercial to a commercial station. We believe the FCC should grant the petition for the benefit of viewers in our region.

This station is an important asset to our community. For more than 40 years, WQED has been a leader in public broadcasting, providing residents of the Greater Pittsburgh area the highest-quality, commercial-free programming available.

However, current economic conditions make it impossible for WQED to operate two noncommercial television stations in our region. The sale of WQEX would help WQED resolve several financial challenges, enabling it to retire debt and invest in new equipment and programming.

We hope you will agree with the residents of western Pennsylvania and support WQED's petition. Your support will both ensure that WQED remains a vital resource for our community and make it possible for the WQEX frequency to be utilized commercially, providing additional jobs and revenue in our market.

Sincerely,

Markos I. Tambakeras
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Angela Campbell

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

495 MANSFIELD AVENUE

PITTSBURGH, PA 15205-4350

OF THE
UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO
Telephone: 412-922-6200 Fax: 412-922-6032



TO: CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

FROM: WILLIAM R. WATERKOTTE
WPARDC – Director of Organizing

DATE: February 6, 2001

RE: Sale of WQEX to the ShootingStar Broadcasting Company

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you as a member and the Director of Organizing for the Western Pennsylvania Regional District Council of Carpenters.

For more than 40 years, WQED Pittsburgh has played an important role in our community, through high quality educational, children's and public programming all free of charge. Unfortunately, they remain deeply in debt due to a shrinking corporate donor base throughout Pittsburgh.

I wish to express support for the petition recently filed by WQED Pittsburgh requesting the conversion of WQEX from a non-commercial to commercial station. I believe the FCC should grant this petition because it would benefit viewers like us.

I urge you to support the WQED Pittsburgh petition. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William R. Waterkotte
Director of Organizing

WRW/lw
opeiu-457

cc: Angela Campbell