

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "lathom" <lathom@earthlink.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 12:49 AM
Subject: I support video description

February 26, 2002

Jeff Thom
7414 Mooncrest Way
Sacramento, CA 95831

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, SW
Washington, DC 29554

re: Docket No. 99-339.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I would like to express my strong opposition to the efforts of the film, cable, and broadcast industry representatives to thwart the will of the commission by resisting the imposition of reasonable requirements for the use of video description.

As a blind parent and attorney, I utilize television for a variety of reasons; as a form of recreation, as a means of learning, and in order to make sure that my young child watches the types of shows most appropriate to her age and that I can enjoy them with her. Audio description of the visual portion of television programming enhances my understanding and enjoyment of all types of programming. I don't need to ask my daughter what is going on, but rather I can engage in dialog with her about what we are watching.

The technology for making video description available is no longer expensive and is readily available. The industry lawsuit to block the commission's regulations, and its current 11th-hour request to delay imposition of the programming requirements until the lawsuit is decided evince an almost unbelievable lack of sensitivity. Notwithstanding industry editorials castigating its leaders for taking such a short-sighted position, the industry appears to have little regard for the needs of blind and visually impaired persons, let alone the decisions made by the commission unless those decisions suit their perceived self-interest.

I, along with thousands of blind men and women throughout the nation, have been reaping the benefits of video-described programming. The commission's historic regulations in this area will, if they are allowed to remain in place, signal a landmark in the struggle of blind and visually impaired persons to be fully independent citizens. Thus, I write to express my appreciation for the commission's efforts in the past, and urge the

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comission to hold firm in its resolve to uphold the ability of blind Americans to have more equal access to the content of television programming. I urge the commission, therefore, not to grant the request to delay implementation of the April, 2002 video-description requirements.

Very truly yours

Jeff Thom

2/27/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: <alpha007@oanet.com>
To: <info@acb.org>
Cc: <alpha007@oanet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 4:31 AM
Subject: I support video description

David Smith
Bower Place Post Office
P.O. Box 21040
Red Deer, Alberta
T4R 2M1, Canada
(H) (403) 782-9255
(E-mail) alpha007@oanet.com

February 27, 2002

American Council for the Blind (ACB)

Governmental Relations Group
American Foundation for the Blind
202-408-8169
(E-mail) blemoine@afb.net
(Web site) <http://www.afb.org/gov.asp>

Attention: Ms. Barbara Jackson LeMoine,
Legislative Assistant

I support the FCC in not retreating from their video description order. I need video description implemented on schedule in April.

Sincerely,

David Smith

2/27/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Chris & Renfro" <renfro92w@adelphia.net>
To: <info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 2:03 AM
Subject: I support video description

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, SW
Washington, DC 29554

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Mr. Caton:

I am writing to you in support of Descriptive Video Services and vehemently object to the request of the movie, cable, and broadcast industry to stay the implementation of DVS on April 1, 2002.

It is a great shame to the entertainment industry to deny the blind and visually impaired community this right, given that the industry prides itself as being socially responsible to the public. Blind and visually impaired people all over the country have waited since the issuance of the order to finally have access to television programming. By taking that away from them, the networks send the message that they are apathetic to the needs of the blind, thus further contributing to decades of discrimination towards this community.

I wholeheartedly support the FCC's DVS order, and hope that you will not back down and allow the entertainment industry to manipulate the legal system in its favor once again.

Sincerely,

Chris Snyder
5621 Vantage Ave.
Valley Village, CA
91607
(818) 754-0647

Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.
Checked by AVG anti-virus system (<http://www.grisoft.com>).
Version: 6.0.325 / Virus Database: 182 - Release Date: 2/19/02

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Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Harvey Heagy" <heagy@earthlink.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 1:51 AM
Subject: I support video description

6525 Park Manor dr.
apt 43
Metairie, La. 70003
Phone: 1-504-888-1339

Secretary
F.C.C.
Washington, D.C.

Dear F.C.C. secretary:

in the matter of MM docket number 99-339.
As a blind person I applaud the F.C.C.'s efforts to make
television more accessible to blind persons.

However, I am deeply concerned with the recent cowardly and
unethical actions of the entertainment moguls in their filing of a
petition to stay the F.C.C.'s order for more described programming
which is scheduled to go into effect on April 1.

Blind consumers have waited for this event for a long time, and I
feel that this stay is totally unjustified.

If the entertainment industry wanted an injunction it could have
filed for one long before now rather than waiting until the last
minute. This tells me that it has ulterior motives in doing so.

Therefore, I call upon the F.C.C. not to allow the money interests
of the entertainment industry to get by with their self serving
actions and not to grant this stay. If
anything the F.C.C. should expand the order for D.V.S. programming
to include much more television programming. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey Heagy

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Marie Anderson" <marie.anderson@juno.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 1:42 AM
Subject: I support video description

Mr. William Caton, Secretary

Re: mm99339

Once again the sight impaired and blind community have to fight to obtain access that the sighted world takes for granted.

In this age of information, communication and entertainment a large segment of the United States citizens are being shut out. Accommodation comes more easily to the people of other lands who immigrate to this country.

I challenge everyone who is making these decisions to put on a blindfold and try to watch a popular television show. Then go to work the next day and try to join your friends in a discussion of the show. The exclusion of blind people from the general public will become all too clear to you.

We are not asking for a hand out, only that you treat us with dignity. We have been hidden away and ignored long enough. We're people too, we just can't see with our eyes.

I support the television and movie industry requirement that industry start broadcasting DVS on schedule. The movie, cable, and television industry are denying us our ability to access information available to everyone else who can see the television.

If you have any empathy at all for people who are different than you, this denial of our rights will end.

Marie Anderson
1858 38th Place NE
Salem, OR 97305

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<http://dl.www.juno.com/get/web/>.

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "kitty hevener" <kitty@netwiz.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 11:40 AM
Subject: I support Video Description

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Barbara Vodapivc

From: <scrapinasnap@clearsource.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 1:07 AM
Subject: I support video description

I support video description and I support the FCC in not retreating from their video description order. I need video description implemented on schedule in April.

Sincerely,

LT Wimberley

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Kim Ruf" <princesskimberly@earthlink.net>
To: <info@ACB.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 2:26 AM
Subject: I support descriptive video.

dear secretary of the FCC,

My name is Kimberly ruf and I am a member of the American council of the blind of Ohio. I am writing this letter in reference to MM docket number 99-339. I have been blind all of my life but have enjoyed being able to hear cable television and other audio described services. I would like to continue to have this happen for myself and others like me. I would like to have the cable companies always give us access to things that are televised for the rest of the public. I feel that we have just as much rights to access information that is available to the sighted public.

Please keep my request in mind when deciding on MM docket number 99-339. I truly believe that access shouldn't be denied to the visually impaired public. We pay for cable too and would just like to have information accessible to us. Thank you very much for your cooperation in reading this letter.

Sincerely,

Kimberly S. Ruf

P.S. My address is 2815 Lake Shore Pl. Apt. 305 Dayton, Ohio 45420

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Dan" <dan@bytemeusa.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 9:40 AM
Subject: I support Video Description

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Barbara Vodapivc

From: <doryfish@pacbell.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 9:15 AM
Subject: I support video description

It is my understanding that the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America have filed a petition requesting the FCC to stay the implementation of the video description rule until their appeal is adjudicated. I request that the FCC deny that petition. Visually impaired persons are denied access to countless programs and movies because there is no video description which results in our inability to follow and to understand action programs and movies.

Doris Fisher
doryfish@pacbell.net

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Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Kathy Hoell" <khoell@cox.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 9:12 AM
Subject: I support video description

I sincerely hope that the FCC will not retreat in the video description order, this should be implemented on schedule in April.

Kathy Hoell
7301 Sarpy Ave.
Bellevue, NE 68147-1456
(402)734-6661
khoell@cox.net

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."
-Albert Einstein

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Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Sian Alexandra Kleindienst" <kleind@fas.harvard.edu>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 8:56 AM
Subject: I support Video Dscription

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, SW
Washington, DC 29554

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Mr. Caton:

I am writing to you in support of Descriptive Video Services and vehemently object to the request of the movie, cable, and broadcast industry to stay the implementation of DVS on April 1, 2002.

It is a great shame to the entertainment industry to deny the blind and visually impaired community this right, given that the industry prides itself as being socially responsible to the public. Blind and visually impaired people all over the country have waited since the issuance of the order to finally have access to television programming. By taking that away from them, the networks send the message that they are apathetic to the needs of the blind, thus further contributing to decades of discrimination towards this community.

I wholeheartedly support the FCC's DVS order, and hope that you will not back down and allow the entertainment industry to manipulate the legal system in its favor once again.

Sincerely,
Sian Kleindienst

Sian Kleindienst
Box 187 Kirkland House Mail Center
Cambridge, MA 02138

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Robert Allen & Marsha Camp" <mcamp@together.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 8:39 AM
Subject: I support video description

I support the FCC in not retreating from their video description order. I need video description implemented on schedule in April.

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Barbara Vodapivc

From: "holly guinan" <hguinan@sover.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 8:36 AM
Subject: I support video description

Holly Guinan
P.O. Box 155
Guildhall, VT 05905
Tel: 802-328-4420

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554.

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339

Dear Secretary Caton:

I am writing in support of the April implementation of video description. I understand that the (sighted) fat cats and corporate big wigs of the broadcasting industry have applied for yet another extension to avoid having to comply with the law which mandates video description begin in April, 2002.

As a teacher of visually impaired children, I can not tell you how important access to movies and TV programs is to my students. It's not just for entertainment. Description will allow my students to become fully integrated members of contemporary culture, able to catch the references and allusions that make a person fully culturally literate in this society. That industry executives find it economically convenient to deny my students their independence outrages me. They are no better than the Enron scum who exploit the least of us for their own benefit.

Please enforce the April deadline for compliance with this law. Broadcasters have already delayed and postponed implementation of video description. Enough is enough.

Sincerely,

Holly Guinan
Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired
Guildhall, VT

2/27/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: <mksanders@drs.state.ok.us>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 7:39 AM
Subject: I support Video Description

I support the FCC in not retreating from their video description order. I need video description implemented on schedule in April. Marilyn Sanders, (918) 742-8989

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Nancy Moulton" <moultonn@bellsouth.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 9:51 AM
Subject: I support video description

Nancy Moulton
434 Haas Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30316
404-688-9769

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554.
Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

February 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Caton,

The National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America filed a petition late last Friday, February 22, at the FCC to stay the implementation of the video description rule until after the court appeal is decided. This request is being made just one month before compliance is required from the industry, well into the period the industry was given as an extension to do the right thing. It was done at the eleventh hour just before blind and visually impaired people all over this nation finally had the right to watch television programming.

I am a blind person and was looking forward to realizing my fantasy of truly sitting down and watching television with my family and friends. Sure, I can sit down now with family and friends with the television on. This, for a blind person, is not really watching television. Often the main point of a story is missed. Should I and others be denied the privilege of watching television. The only way for a blind person to really watch television is with video description.

Audio description provides a manner in which the visual aspects are described if a person turns on the secondary audio programming (SAP) channel of a television. If a person does not turn on the SAP channel no audio description is heard. No one is forced to listen to it.

Would you argue to not require close captioning for people who are hard of hearing. I hope not. Audio description is similar for visually impaired people to what close captioning is for people who are hard of hearing.

I hope my fantasy to really watch television becomes a reality in a month. Please do not let it remain just a fantasy.

Thank you in advance,

Nancy Moulton

2/27/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Pam Drake" <pamdrake@pacbell.net>
To: <info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 5:30 AM
Subject: I Support Discriptive Video

Pamela Drake
1203 W. Evergreen Ct
Visalia Ca

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554.

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

I support the right of all blind persons to access descriptions of any and all video content on the screen.

Furthermore, I urge you in the name of equality for all to deny the latest attempt by the broadcast and entertainment industries to delay the implementation of such a valuable enhancement to our television viewing.

Sincerely

Pamela drake

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Tracy Soforenko" <tracy.soforenko@verizon.net>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 9:32 PM
Subject: I support Video Description

As an avid film and television viewer who is rapidly loosing his vision, I was pleased to find video description as a means to continue enjoying television and movies. I am surprised that the media industry is balking at meeting the specified deadlines for providing this service to customers. The blind and vidually impaired provide deserve full access to enjoy the products of the media industry. Do the right thing and comply with the prescribed deadlines.

Tracy Soforenko
Arlington, VA

2/27/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Lumley Robert L" <Robert.L.Lumley@irs.gov>
To: <INFO@ACB.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 9:42 AM
Subject: I support video descriptions

To: Secretary of the FCC
From: Robert Lumley
address: 9029 1st street
address: Lanham, Md. 20706
Phone: (301) 552-0413
Subject: docket number 99-339

Hi, i'd like to know why Section 508 of the rehab act requires the government to have dvs on all broadcast and videos, but the ADA does not push this on the private sector. I feel strongly that the courts should not extend the dead line for DVS and should require the private sector to stand up to the plate as the federal government has done.

thanks much

Robert Lumley

Robert Lumley
I.R.A.P
Voice: (202) 283-4208
Fax: (202) 283-6565
Email: robert.l.lumley@irs.gov

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Tim Curtin" <tcurtin@eitacsg.com>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 11:40 AM
Subject: I SUPPORT VIDEO DESCRIPTION

From Tim Curtin with EITAC Solutions Group, LLC

Tim Curtin
EITAC Solutions Group, LLC
800-981-5660

2/27/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Anita Lindberg" <lindberg_anita@willamesd.k12.or.us>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 11:37 AM
Subject: I support video description

The students I teach and represent support the FCC in not retreating from their video description order. They badly need video description implemented as scheduled in April, 2002 to access equally the same material their sighted peers access so readily.

Anita Lindberg, Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Mobility Specialist

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Sharon Lovering" <slovering@acb.org>
To: <bvodapivc@acb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 11:13 AM
Subject: I support video description

619 N. Monroe St. #2
Arlington, VA 22201

Mr. William Caton, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554
Reference MM 99-339

Dear Secretary Caton:

I support video description. I have worked with blind people for 8 1/2 years, and I have seen their frustration over visual elements in TV programs, movies, videos, and computer programs.

The world we live in now is increasingly visual -- special effects in movies that rely almost exclusively on being able to see them, quick scene changes without musical cues, graphical user interfaces on computers, and so forth. It is difficult to follow a TV show or movie that relies solely on visual elements if you can't see. Try watching "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" blindfolded and see how much you can follow.

As the population ages, the percentage of people with visual impairments will increase as well due to a variety of conditions (macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, etc.). The percentage of people who can benefit from video description will also grow. Blind people need video description now.

Sincerely,
Sharon Lovering

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Hudson H Bubar" <hudson1@juno.com>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 11:15 AM
Subject: I support video description on TV!

2/27/02

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Louise Norris" <LouNorris28@webtv.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2002 11:09 AM
Subject: I support video description

To who it may concern,

In this way, the segment of our society that
is blind or very poor vision. May enjoy movies
or whatever

2/27/02