

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "The Scarlet Wombat" <coconut@mva.net>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2002 8:58 AM
Subject: I support video description

To the Federal Communications Commission and other interested parties;:

As a blind user of electronic entertainment, I am fervently opposed to the request by the National Association of Broadcasters to stay the implementation of the rules regarding video description due to come into effect in April.

They have had time to handle the technical issues presented by this matter. The requirement is for only four hours per week, it is not a significant portion of their broadcast time.

The blind and visually impaired have been awaiting the implementation of this rule eagerly, hoping to finally be partly included in the electronic entertainment industry.

Please do not bow to industry pressure in this regard.

Daniel Graham

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "Cliff Schulman" <SchulCl@goodsamhealth.org>
To: <Info@ACB.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 5:30 PM
Subject: I support video Description

Cliff Schulman President PCAB Pierce County Association of the Blind
 -----Original Message-----

From: Kevin LaRose
 To: WCB-L@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU
 Sent: 2/25/02 2:05 PM
 Subject: [WCB-L] Urgent DVS Alert

From Charlie Crawford...

ACB Action Alert!

Descriptive video under attack.
 February 25, 2002

ACB learned this morning that the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America have filed a petition late last Friday 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, and at the eleventh hour just before blind and visually impaired people all over this nation have waited since the issuance of the order to finally have access to television programming. ACB and our friends are outraged at this offensive action on the part of an industry that argues itself to be so-called socially responsible.

ACB asks all our members and friends to send electronic mail to

Info@ACB.org

with the subject line of "I support video description" and we will **print the letter** and pass it along to the Federal Communications Commission to let them know we support them in not retreating from **their order** and we need video description to be implemented on schedule in April.

It is urgent that **everyone write** since the industry has the money but we have the **rights to access**. Please write to the Secretary of the FCC given below, give your name and address, why you support the requirement that industry start broadcasting DVS on schedule and reference **MM docket number 99-339**. Feel free to let the FCC know what you **think** about the movie, cable, and television industry efforts to **deny** us our ability to access information available to everyone else who can see the television.

2/26/02

We can and will win this battle, but we need everyone to send in the email to us. Those who wish to send letters can do so to the address below and we ask that you send a copy to me (Charles Crawford) at the National Office so we can meet our legal requirement to make sure the other side gets notice that people object to their request. After all, even though the industry has the right to receive copies objecting to their request, maybe they ought to have to read all the mail we are forced to generate in order to give them a real sense that they are trying to deny real people with something we have fought hard to get.

Remember to send your email to

Info@ACB.org

with the subject

line of "I support video description" and to address it to the Secretary of the FCC with your name and address, your objection to the request of the movie, cable, and broadcast industry to their asking to get off the hook, and be sure to reference MM docket number 99-339. If you write a regular letter, then send it to the address below with the information I just mentioned and send a copy to me at the National Office.

Charles Crawford, Executive Director

American Council of the Blind

1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 1004

Washington, DC 20005

Thanks and let's show the industry they can't just write off blind folks like we don't have the same rights as anyone else. Here is the name and address of the FCC Secretary.

Mr. William Caton, Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 15th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Reference MM Docket no. 99-339.

Because copies of each letter must also be sent to the opposition, we suggest that folks address your letters to the FCC Secretary but be sure to send me a copy of the original either by email or in regular letters and there is nothing more that I would like then to bury them in an avalanche of support for video description!

Kevin LaRose

thumper1964@earthlink.net

MSN Messenger: thumper090564@hotmail.com

In dog we trust!

Barbara Vodapivc

From: "john_slatin" <john_slatin@forum.utexas.edu>
To: <info@acb.org>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 5:35 PM
Subject: I support video description

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a visually impaired faculty member and director of the Institute for Technology and Learning at the University of Texas at Austin. Both as a private citizen and as an educator, I strongly support full implementation of the video description rule, for which I and millions of other blind and visually impaired citizens have been waiting for so many years.

People who are blind and visually impaired are television owners and cable subscribers, in proportions virtually identical to those of the general population; people who are blind and visually impaired watch an average of more than 24 hours of television per week, again much like the general population. But we do not have equal access to most of what is on our sets; video description makes an *enormous* difference in the quality of our experience, enabling us to understand much more fully what is happening on the screen and enabling us to share the experience much more fully with our co-workers, our friends, and our families.

I have the distinct advantage of living in Austin, Texas, one of the few communities in Texas where audio description of films, theatrical performances, opera, and other cultural events is available through the services of VSArts of Texas. This has made a wonderful difference in my life; I have been able once again to enjoy movies with my wife, to go to plays and the opera with her and our friends, and to participate fully in conversation about the events we've been to. Such conversations have been a vital part of my life as a professor and as a person.

As an educator, I can assure you that *all* students-- not just those who are blind or visually impaired-- can benefit from the additional information provided by well executed descriptions. This is true of University students, and it is equally true of the K-12 students whom we serve at the Institute for Technology and Learning.

I urge the FCC to proceed toward full implementation of audio description.

Sincerely,

John M. Slatin

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Dr. John M. Slatin, Director  
Institute for Technology and Learning  
University of Texas at Austin  
FAC 248, Mailcode G9600

2/26/02

Austin, TX 78712  
ph 512-495-4288, fax 512-495-4524  
email [jslatin@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:jslatin@mail.utexas.edu)  
web <http://www.ital.utexas.edu>

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Mike Gravitt" <mgravitt2@attbi.com>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2002 5:42 PM  
**Subject:** I support video

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**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Walter Siren" <Wsiren@cox.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2002 5:25 PM  
**Subject:** I support vidio description

to: Secretary of the FCC  
From: Walter Siren  
2354 Mendez Dr.  
BNew orleans, LA 70122

Dear Sir:

As a blind person, I am writing to voice my strong objection to those opposing the implementation of the description  
vidio which is suppose to take place on April 1. This is concerning  
MM  
docket number 99-339.

I know that there are those that say this should be left up to the private sector to do it, and this is a good example  
why that should not be done. Since the technology has been available for a long time now, and the private sector has  
not made any moves to produce this on network, television for us. I have been looking forward to getting programs with  
the description vidio for a long time now. I can't see any reason for delaying this any longer.

Yours truly,

Walter E. Siren Jr.

Walter  
[wsiren@cox.net](mailto:wsiren@cox.net)

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Mary Otten" <maryotten@myrealbox.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2002 5:08 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

To the members of the FCC:

Please do not give in to the 11th-hour attempt by the broadcasters, both cable and over-the-air, to subvert implementation of the admittedly modest video description requirements you have wisely required of them.

Cable companies have have monopolies. Broadcasters are given hundreds of millions of dollars of channel allocations for free. Yet they say they can't implement a requirement which requires them to do a pultry amount of video description, so that all of the public can have full access to at least a small percentage of their programming? I am outraged, and I trust that you on the FCC will stand up and do the right thing, by denying the ridiculous request of these rich and powerful media giants. Video description's time has come. Don't put it off any longer, please!

Mary Otten

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Colley, Berl" <colleyb@oclc.org>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2002 4:23 PM  
**Subject:** dvs

I want to express my outrage at the attempts to avoid providing DVS to blind and visually impaired citizens of the United States by the broadcast industry.

Please make sure that current last-minute sneaky tactics fail.

Berl Colley  
2305 Maxine St. se  
Lacey Wa 98503

2/26/02

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** Steve & Cindy <flerman@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2002 4:41 PM  
**Subject:** I support video description

Dear Federal Communications Commissions Office:

We have long awaited the April implementation of descriptive video services. We live alone and are totally blind, and miss much of what is going on without it. We have been looking forward to its implementation since the news of an April implementation came out. Please do not back down from this deadline!

As evidence, think of the last episode last year of the West Wing. There are so many things in the projected series expected in April that we are missing and don't realize we are missing.--Steve and Cindy Flerman

2/25/02

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Jane Broumley" <jane@vsatx.org>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2002 10:32 AM  
**Subject:** I support video description

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Matthew Janusauskas" <matthew@acbradio.org>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2002 5:01 PM  
**Subject:** I Support Video Description

My name is Matthew Janusauskas. I'm 27 years old and totally blind. I'm very upset to learn of another attempt at delay by the entertainment and broadcasting industries.

The scheduled time to implement DVS services should be upheld.

Thank you.

Matthew L. Janusauskas  
2067 W. Potawatoie Trail  
Kankakee IL 60901

2/26/02

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** <garyshine@aol.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2002 4:38 PM  
**Subject:** I Support Video Description!!!

**Education  
Employment  
Independence**

2/25/02

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Edwin Montanez" <emontane@tabinc.org>  
**To:** <Info@ACB.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2002 10:42 AM

To: Mr. William Caton, Secretary, FCC.

Date: February 26, 2002.

From: Edwin Montanez, 1217 Washington Street, Hoboken, NJ 07j030

Re: docket number 99-339

The National Association of Broadcasters, the National Cable Telecommunications Association and the Motion Picture Association of America have filed a petition late last Friday at the FCC to stay the implementation of the video description rule; this is unacceptable.

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, and at the eleventh hour just before blind and visually impaired people all over this nation start to finally have access to television programming.

Access to information and political discourse including that which is broadcast on TV is central to civic participation and full citizenship in the United States of America. Please do the right thing and deny the multi-billion-dollar industry the request to postpone compliance with video description.

Thank you,  
Edwin Montanez

# **Access, LLC**

an

**Alternative Communication Corporation Engaged in SAP Services**

**3 Pickering Ct**

**Suite 1**

**Germantown, MD 20874**

**Tel: 866-901-4653**

**Fax: 240-465-0398**

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

Reference: MM Docket no. 99-339.

Dear Sir:

It is with much dismay that I received the news that a request for delay had been received by the FCC regarding voice descriptive services to be implemented April 1, 2002. This is just another delaying tactic to get around compliance with your new statutes. I am not blind or visually impaired but I can see the value in accessibility for all people. I support your decision to initiate the voice descriptive statute and now I encourage you to remain steadfast in your implementation.

As you know, Canada enacted this statute September 1, 2001, and there have been no complaints from any of the major broadcasters, I would think this would be indicative of the response you will receive if you stick to your guns.

I thank you for your **attention** and your time.

Sincerely yours,

Edward E. Robinson, **CEO**

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Deb and Ed" <debanded@debanded.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2002 10:15 AM  
**Attach:** fcc-acb letter.doc  
**Subject:** I support video description

See attached letter

Ed/Debbie Robinson  
3 Pickering Ct  
Suite 1  
Germantown, MD 20874  
Voice: 301-540-6814  
Fax: 240-465-0398

<http://www.secureurfuture.com>

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** Jay Doudna <Jay@obs.org>  
**To:** <Info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2002 8:23 AM  
**Subject:** Descriptive Video

The Pennsylvania Council of the Blind enthusiastically supports the descriptive Video service.

Jay Doudna  
Overbrook School for the Blind  
6333 Malvern Ave  
Philadelphia Pa 19151  
[Jay@obs.org](mailto:Jay@obs.org)

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2/26/02

**Barbara Vodapivc**

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**From:** "Nieves, Richard" <rnieves@mdcc.edu>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2002 10:44 AM  
**Subject:** I support Descriptive video

To whom it may concern:

I am a person who has a retinal degenerative disease. Only recently, I started to have a real problem viewing television. For me, this was a real drag since I enjoy watching programs and movies with my young daughter. When I found out about descriptive video, I was thrilled since I now have the ability to fully enjoy television, as well as explain to my daughter what is going on. I can't stress enough how terrible it makes me feel when my daughter asks me questions about a particular scene in a movie and all I can say is "I don't know". Video description has helped to break through this barrier.

To now see video description at risk of being lost, I feel, is a disgrace. If the industry allows for closed-captioning and options for translating foreign languages so that people who don't understand English can enjoy the movie experience, then descriptive video should be an available option for blind people. It is an accomodation not a luxury. Thank you.

Richard Nieves