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THE SHOPTAW GROUP

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS

William R. Stahlke
President

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February 13, 2002

Mr. William Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CS Docket No. 00-2

Dear Mr. Caton:

I am writing in strong support of continuing the current prohibition on exclusive programming contracts contained in Section 628(c)(2)(D) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, which will expire on October 5, 2002, unless the Commission finds that such prohibition continues to be necessary to preserve competition and diversity in the distribution of video programming.

At Toscana at Metro West Apartments, we continue to seek the best possible video services for our residents. Video service that is dependable and affordable is extremely important to our residents. To achieve top flight service for our residents, we enter into agreements with a provider for a limited number of years, and we demand that programming options keep pace with choices that are available elsewhere in the Greater Orlando, Florida, area. It would be unthinkable if our current video provider was legally restricted from being able to obtain programming that our residents want – programming such as HBO, the History Channel, Disney, various sports channels, and a whole host of other programs. Recent mergers and consolidations in the video marketplace make us nervous that the ground could suddenly shift from under a given video provider's ability to obtain many of the popular channels. If the video provider for any of our apartment communities loses the ability to bring in certain channels, while the property a couple of blocks away is able to bring in those channels, we will be faced with many unhappy residents and our ability to attract and retain residents will suffer greatly.

Please continue the current ban on exclusive programming contracts.

Sincerely,

William R. Stahlke

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WRS:lm

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