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May 9, 2002

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BY HAND DELIVERY

Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

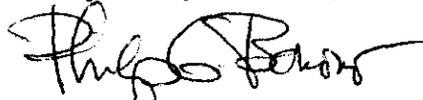
**Re: Ex Parte Presentation  
Amendment of the Television Table of Allotments to Delete  
Noncommercial Reservation of Channel \*16, 482-488 MHz,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, MM Docket No. 01-276**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of WQED Pittsburgh, I am enclosing for inclusion in the above-referenced docket two copies of a letter from Senator Arlen Specter to Chairman Michael K. Powell.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions concerning this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Philip A. Bonomo

No. of Copies rec'd 0+2  
List ABCDE

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
The Honorable Kevin J. Martin  
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3802

April 26, 2002

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

Re: WQED/WQEX, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Chairman Powell:

On January 9, 2001, WQED Pittsburgh filed a petition requesting that the noncommercial reservation of WQEX, Channel 16 in Pittsburgh, be deleted to permit the sale of WQEX as a commercial station. Previously, I have written you to urge early favorable action on the petition. I am writing again today to express my continuing support for the petition, and to request once more that the Commission act on WQED's request in a timely manner.

Favorable consideration of the WQED petition is critical to the future of public television in southwestern Pennsylvania. WQED suffers from a crippling debt that, according to the station, hampers its ability to fulfill its mission as a public television licensee. I am convinced that using the proceeds from the sale of WQEX to eliminate this debt is fully consistent with the public interest. The proceeds from the sale will also endow a local programming fund, pay for overdue repairs to the company's physical plant, and help fund the mandated conversion to digital technology.

WQED's petition also deserves expedited consideration by the Commission. The petition has been before the Commission for more than 14 months now - in large part due to the Commission's delay in commencing the public comment period. Any further regulatory delay may jeopardize the proposed sale of WQED to ShootingStar, Inc., a commercial broadcaster headed by a Pittsburgh native.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Arlen Specter

AS/ds