

02-270176  
JP

**EDMC**  
Education Management Corporation

Robert B. Knutson  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

December 14, 2001

01-276

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

**RECEIVED**  
JUN 20 2002  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a long term resident of the Pittsburgh area, I urge you to approve the petition to dereserve WQEX so that it can operate as a commercial station in this market.

WQED continues to experience serious financial limitations, even though progress has been made by management. This region's corporate donor base has been shrinking, and there has been a steady decline in population. This has undermined the region's ability to support two noncommercial stations.

WQED has always been a vital resource to the citizens of Western Pennsylvania and offers superb programming that we cherish.

Derreservation of Channel 16 will make possible a strong WQED as a voice for this community so that it can meet the needs of this region well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as opposed to having two financially weak stations as at present.

Thank you for your positive vote on this important matter.

Sincerely,



cc: Angela J. Campbell

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Marcus L. Ruscitto  
President & CEO  
Stargate.net

*12-7-02/127*

RECEIVED  
December 9, 2001

JUN 20 2002

*01-276*

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns and encourage you to approve the petition to dereserve WQEX so that it can be sold and operate as a commercial station in this market.

Although WQED has made great strides in putting its fiscal house in order, it continues to experience severe financial distress. This is due in part to the shrinking of the region's corporate donor base and a steady decline in population, which has permanently undermined the region's ability to support two noncommercial stations.

The proceeds from the sale will be used to retire WQED's debt, to complete the conversion of WQED to a digital facility as required by the FCC, and to invest in programming and other new technologies, which will enable WQED to become a leading regional public multimedia enterprise.

The region's viewers no longer need to rely on noncommercial television for educational programming. Cable television, direct broadcast satellite, the Internet, videotapes, DVDs, and computers each offer an alternative means of learning both at home and in the classroom.

WQED has always been an important voice for the community and offers acclaimed programming that is responsive to the needs of the people of this region. WQED was especially responsive in the aftermath of the September terrorist attacks and devoted its programming to local reaction and offered resources for the local community to access.

Derreservation of Channel 16 will make possible a stronger WQED as a voice for this community so that it can meet the needs of this region well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 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.

I strongly urge you to act favorably. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcus L. Ruscitto

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

MLR/sz

*01-276*

November 27, 2001

RECEIVED

JUN 20 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William K. Powell, Chairman,  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Sir:

As a lifelong resident of the city of Pittsburgh, I feel it is my duty to very strongly protest the potential sale of the public television station WQEX by WQED, (FCC file: MM Docket No.01-276). It is my understanding that as a public trustee, WQED was granted a license to serve the residents of this area with programming that will educate, enlighten and inform. WQED's national focus has led to a neglect of the local working man by refusing to air comprehensive reports about his culture as they were "too narrow, only appealing to a small audience."

While WQED may advertise that it doesn't have shareholders as a public station, I personally feel that I am a stakeholder. Almost 50 years ago, like many children of the then smoky-city, I walked around my neighborhood collecting for the "educational station" that would bring a new era to my school. Today, there is nothing programmed for a student to view during school hours and perhaps the saddest commentary of all, there are two stations simulcasting programming.

WQEX must be kept as a local public broadcasting entity to fulfill the tenet of its bequest as a gift to the citizens of Pittsburgh. While I have neither cable nor satellite, I believe WQEX Channel 16 can be the 'unlimited access' over-the-air channel, perhaps with microwave mobility, broadcasting meetings, events, and hearings, 'live' as a true regional asset for the people of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

*James Potanko*

James Potanko  
1411 Arnold Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220  
412-921-5595

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

286 Jefferson Street  
Meadville, PA 16335  
November 28, 2001

RECEIVED

JUN 20 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

02-726185

01-272

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room 8-B115  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

Please consider this request for a positive ruling in favor of WQED's (Pittsburgh) petition to have WQEX (Channel 16) restored to its original designation as a commercial Pittsburgh station. I have enormous respect for WQED, one of America's premier public broadcasting operations in radio and television. I am confident that the decision by their leadership to submit this petition was made after sufficient consideration of all aspects of the request and with the best long-term interest of public television in Pittsburgh in mind.

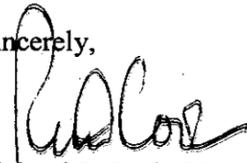
The financial and programming challenges facing WQED are well known and documented, and sale of WQEX represents an effective and sensible way to tackle those challenges head on. Modernization of WQED's facilities, technical capabilities, and programming will be essential for the station to remain a flagship public station and for serving the Western Pennsylvania region well. Conversion to digital television capabilities alone will strain the organization beyond healthy limits without the relief provided by converting to a single-station operation. Retiring their current debt, upgrading facilities and technology, and endowing a program fund will be benefits accrued by the de-reserving of Channel 16 and its eventual sale.

The Pittsburgh region will be better served with a strong and healthy Channel 13 WQED rather than an enterprise that has continued to struggle financially for so long. Further delay will only make things worse. While I understand the visceral objections that a few in the community have registered to the idea of losing a public channel, those making the objections have offered no viable solution of their own.

I urge the Federal Communications Commission to act favorably and promptly on WQED's petition for de-reservation of WQEX. The eventual result will be a healthier educational television environment for everyone.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my thoughts.

Sincerely,

  
Richard J. Cook, Ph.D.

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

01-276  
7040 Bennington Woods Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237  
(412) 367-4963

24127  
M. J. Capps

December 17, 2001

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

Commissioner Michael J. Capps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room 8-A302  
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room 8-B115  
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room 8-A204  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

JUN 20 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Dereservation of WQEX, Channel 16 Pittsburgh

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Abernathy, Capps and Martin:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the dereservation of WQEX, Channel 16 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dereservation of WQEX will be a "win-win" situation for Pittsburgh. At the present time, Channel 13 (WQED) and Channel 16 (WQEX) effectively give Pittsburgh one public television station, operated by an entity (WQED) that not only is strapped with longstanding debt but also anticipates significant future expenses, such as the costs of converting to digital television and repairing its physical plant. If WQEX is dereserved, that will open the door to the sale of WQEX to ShootingStar Broadcasting, the resulting profits of which would allow WQED to retire its debt, proceed with converting WQED to a digital facility, make necessary repairs to its facility, and establish a local programming endowment for WQED. That's a major win for WQED, and therefore for the people of Pittsburgh, who, like me, enjoy and value the kind of local and educational public television programming that WQED provides.

The second "win" comes from the presence of a new commercial station in Pittsburgh, owned and operated by a native Pittsburgher, Diane Sutter, who has many years of experience managing radio and television stations, both in Pittsburgh and beyond.

As far as I'm concerned, there are big plusses and no minuses to the dereservation of WQEX. Our public television station will be stronger, and at the same time we will have more choices in terms of commercial programming.

Sincerely,

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE

*Jacqueline A. Koscelnik*  
Jacqueline A. Koscelnik



Jeffrey C. Harshman  
Senior Vice President  
Pittsburgh Major Market

300 Corliss Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220-4815  
412 875-1100  
FAX 412 331-7452

01-276

November 27, 2001

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

01-226125  
**RECEIVED**

JUN 20 2002

RE: Sale of WQEX

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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 Hazlmanolis, WQED
- Diane Sutter, Shooting Star Broadcasting

No. of Copies rec'd. 0  
List ABCDE

