EX **PARTE** OR **LATE FILE**

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Lowell W. Paxson / Chairman

March 18,2003

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Marlene H. Dortch, Esquire
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: ***Ex* Parte** Report – Digital Must *Carry*
(CS Docket Nos. 98-120)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the FCC rules, this letter reports that on March 12,2003, the undersigned met with Commissioner Kevin J. Martin and Catherine Crutcher Bohigian, his Legal Advisor on Media Issues, to discuss the issue of digital multicast must carry for television stations. In this meeting, the following points were made: the 1992 Cable Act simply left the FCC with the task of making whatever technical changes are necessary to ensure digital must carry, action the FCC has so far failed to take after nearly five years of rulemaking; the FCC record on this issue is complete, and further notice and public comment are unnecessary; the FCC should act promptly to decide the issue so broadcasters, who have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in digital television may begin to realize the value of their investment; the "PAX Full Digital Multicast Must Carry Proposal" ("PAX Multicast Plan"), which is based on the 1992 Act, would permit television stations that choose to allow cable systems to remove their analog signals in favor of their digital signals to have their HDTV or digital multicast signals carried on the digital portion of the cable system, equipped with digital boxes; adoption of the PAX Multicast Plan will allow my company and others to deliver multiple streams of family friendly programming to American households.

Very truly yours,

Lowell W. Paxson
Chairman
Paxson Communications Corporation

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cc: The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Catherine Crutcher Bohigian, Esquire

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