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October 27, 2003

Ex Parte Communication

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 02-230

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to emphasize broadcasters' support for the Commission's adoption of the broadcast flag technology for digital transmissions of broadcast content. The broadcast flag is necessary to prevent widespread unauthorized redistribution of digital broadcast content over the internet. Without it, high quality programming will migrate off of free television.

Significantly, the broadcast flag is designed to preserve consumers' existing rights to copy for their own use programs on a broadcast signal. It is also important for you to recognize that no existing consumer receivers will be made obsolete by the broadcast flag technology.

It is particularly important that the protection of the broadcast flag apply to all programming on broadcast stations, and thus we oppose any exemption for local news and public affairs programs. Those programs are the major product of local television stations. Their copyright interest in those programs is the same as the interest that program producers have in any other type of program, and local stations should similarly be protected against unauthorized redistribution of their intellectual property.

The Honorable Michael K. Powell

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In summary, the Commission's adoption of the broadcast flag without any exemption for local content is another vital step towards completing the DTV transition.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin F. J. J. J.", written in a cursive style.

cc: The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy
The Honorable Kevin Martin
The Honorable Michael J. Copps
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
Kenneth Ferree, Esq.
Jane Mago, Esq.
Rick Chessen, Esq.