

January 15, 2004

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

Re: **Ex Parte Notification**
CS Docket No. 98-120
MM Docket No. 99-360
MM Docket No. 00-167
MM Docket No. 00-168

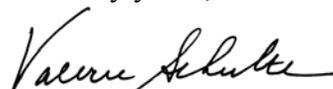
Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 14, 2004, Andrew Fisher, President, Cox Television and NAB Television Board Vice Chair and Jeff Baumann, Jerianne Timmerman and Valerie Schulte of NAB met with Commissioner Michael Copps and his legal advisor Jordan Goldstein to discuss issues relating to the digital transition, including the importance to consumers, broadcasters and the DTV transition of a Commission DTV must carry rule requiring cable operators to carry all free multicast programming contained within the 6 MHz broadcast DTV signal.

The NAB representatives emphasized the importance of allowing DTV broadcasters to provide consumers with an over-the-air multicast programming option in addition to HDTV. We stressed that now is a critical time for the development of multicasting: it is necessary for broadcasters to have the certainty of access to the entire audience to support development of these new services. Otherwise, DTV broadcasters may be forced into a single channel DTV mode, and the public will be denied the benefits of more free programming choices.

We also discussed the public interest obligations of television broadcasters in the digital age, broadcasters' readiness to continue their tradition of strong public service on the new DTV channels and their need for some flexibility in doing so.

Sincerely yours,



Valerie Schulte

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Jordan Goldstein