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February 17, 2004

**VIA Electronic Filing**

*Ex Parte Notice*

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Public Interest Obligations of TV Broadcast Licensees,  
Notice of Inquiry, MM Docket No. 99-360  
Second Periodic Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital  
Television, MB Docket No. 03-15 (see also MM Docket Nos. 99-360, 00-167, 00-168)  
Carriage of Digital Television Broadcast and Implementation of the Satellite Home Viewer  
Improvement Act of 1999; Amendments to Part 76 of the Commission Rules, et al., CS Docket No.  
98-120 (see also CS Docket Nos. 00-96 and 00-2)**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, this letter is to provide notice of an *ex parte* meeting regarding the above-referenced proceedings. On February 13, 2004, Amy Wolverton, Associate Legal Counsel and Media Program Director of the Campaign Legal Center, met with Jordan Goldstein, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Michael J. Copps.

During this meeting, Ms. Wolverton generally discussed the issues and studies outlined in the Campaign Legal Center's (CLC) recent *ex parte* filing on February 4, 2004 regarding the continual decline in the amount of broadcast coverage of campaign and election issues. In support of CLC's request for the Commission to issue a voluntary challenge to the industries for increased coverage, Ms. Wolverton emphasized that most of the news or programming on elections merely consists of "horse race" statistics about which candidate is leading in the polls rather than on substantive candidate profiles or platforms. Consequently, candidates are unable to convey their messages, and voters do not have adequate information to make informed voting choices.

In addition, Ms. Wolverton requested that the Commission include witnesses at the upcoming localism hearings, such as government officials or past candidates, who might speak to the issue of political broadcast coverage at the local level. Finally, Ms. Wolverton urged the Commission to complete its rulemaking on the public interest obligations of digital broadcasters, including responsibilities respecting political discourse.

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Pursuant to the Commission's Rules, this *ex parte* notice is being electronically filed through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System procedures. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-736-2200 should you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

Amy R. Wolverson

cc: Jordan Goldstein, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Michael J. Copps