



CHOWAN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27932

September 16, 2004

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

04-289

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing related to the Petition filed by UNC-TV, the public television network serving North Carolina, to change WUND-TV/DT's community of license from Columbia, North Carolina, to Edenton, North Carolina.

As the county manager of Chowan County, I support this Petition, and I urge the Federal Communications Commission to grant UNC-TV's request. I believe it is important that the FCC understand that Columbia will not suffer as a result of this change; viewers of WUND will continue to receive WUND over the air and via cable, and UNC-TV's programming will continue to be available to satellite subscribers. If this change is not approved, then thousands of satellite subscribers in eight northeast North Carolina counties—Hertford, Gates, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, and Dare—will not have access to all those programs UNC-TV produces just for North Carolinians.

UNC-TV not only broadcasts excellent public television programs from PBS, but also, and more importantly, it produces and broadcasts hundreds of hours of programs intended for North Carolinians and those in surrounding states interested in our state's activities and issues. These programs include a nightly information program, **North Carolina Now**; a weekly program on activities at the North Carolina General Assembly, **Legislative Week in Review**; a weekly program on activities, events, and places to go in North Carolina titled **North Carolina Weekend**; a weekly interview program with prominent North Carolina citizens titled **North Carolina People**; and an extensive, ongoing schedule of documentaries and specials on North Carolina cultural activities and events.

Even with a change in the city of license for WUND, viewers served by this station will continue to be served. And, if the city of license is not changed, thousands of North Carolina citizens in the northeastern part of our state who receive their television service via satellite will remain unable to receive UNC-TV via the local-to-local service made available by their satellite provider. Instead, they will continue to receive their public television from a Virginia station while paying, through tax dollars and personal support, for the important and unique programming and services of UNC-TV. It seems to me to be unacceptable that these viewers who desire information and programs about North Carolina cannot receive them via satellite. If the FCC grants the UNC-TV request to change the city of license for WUND-TV/DT from Columbia to Edenton, then the people in these counties will be able to receive the service of UNC-TV via satellite.

I believe that this change will have an extremely positive impact on those viewers who want to receive UNC-TV by satellite. The public service benefit to the people residing in the counties mentioned would be

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tremendous. At the same time, the Columbia area will suffer no loss from this change. I strongly support UNC-TV's Petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Luther C. Copeland". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Luther C. Copeland
County Manager

cc: County Commissioners