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Federal Communications Commission  
Wash., D.C.

Dear Commissioners:

I read that you are asking for public comment about so-called "VNR's," the federal government's videos promoting various items under the guise of seeming "news." Since our federal government is national I believe very strongly that VNR's should - and must- be uniformly regulated. In particular they should clearly reveal that they are not news but government - prepared and sponsored releases, designed to promote a given program or proposal or whatever. The President's suggestion that local recipients of the videos should be charged with their identification on a voluntary basis is unacceptable, especially given the often highly-charged political/ideological nature of of certain media outlets passing these videos on to us. It also seems to me that without proper identification to pass these items off as news is a step on a dangerous slope towards manipulation, propaganda, and ultimately, federal control of news/information. I urge to consider such issues as you deliberate and then mandate a clear national disclosure standard. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
*Paul J. Hauben*  
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