



TECHNOLOGY • INNOVATION • INTERNATIONAL

Rudolph J. Geist, Esq.

Ext. 105

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 950
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel. (301) 589-2999
Fax: (301) 589-2644
www.rjglawllc.com
May 11, 2006

E-mail
rgeist@rjglawllc.com

Via Electronic Filing

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

**Re: Ex Parte Telephone Call with Aaron Goldberger, Legal
Advisor, and Dana Shaffer, Acting Legal Advisor, for
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
CC Docket No. 05-192, MD Docket No. 05-255**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 11, 2006, Jose Luis Rodriguez, President of the Hispanic Information and Telecommunications Network (“HITN”) and Rudolph J. Geist, representing HITN, had a telephone call with Aaron Goldberger, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, and Dana Shaffer, Acting Legal Advisor to Commissioner Tate.

The telephone call focused on the challenges faced by Hispanic broadcasters in light of media consolidation. The conversation could be relevant to the above-referenced proceedings. On the call, HITN discussed the network’s efforts to be carried on cable systems including Comcast and Time Warner and the difficulty independent channels, such as HITN-TV, have being carried, especially on the basic tier.

HITN-TV is the first and only Spanish language public interest educational television network available nationwide and should be made widely available to serve Spanish language households and those interested in Latino programming, culture and news.

Mr. Rodriguez expressed his support for the Commission’s interest in minority broadcasters but explained his reservations about a la carte programming options. While he expressed openness to further discussions, he noted that the cost of digital cable service and the need for special equipment makes a la carte an unrealistic option for many Hispanic households.

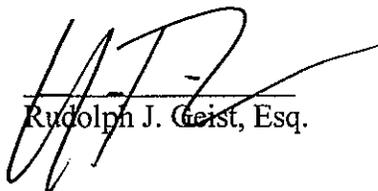
Mr. Rodriguez suggested that the Commission find structural ways to give independent channels access to basic and family tiers. Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Geist reiterated the

strong demand for Spanish language educational programming in the United States. This is evident by market research and the fact that HITN is presently available to virtually all DISH network satellite subscribers and Para Todos package subscribers on DirecTV, in addition to being carried on the digital Spanish-Language tiers of both Comcast and Time Warner. HITN-TV generates an enthusiastic national audience for its award-winning daily call-in show, *Dialogo*, and receives an abundance of calls from all parts of the nation. Mr. Rodriguez discussed the need to give independent programmers like HITN an opportunity to be carried on the basic tier of the nation's multi-channel video distribution systems.

This letter is being filed electronically for inclusion in the above-referenced dockets pursuant to Section 1.1208 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §1.1208.

If you have any further questions, please contact the undersigned counsel.

Very truly yours,



Rudolph J. Geist, Esq.

cc (via e-mail): Aaron Goldberger, Legal Advisor
Dana Shaffer, Acting Legal Advisor