

D

Pam Gregory

Pocket No 06-181

From: Jay Keithley
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 6:05 PM
To: Pam Gregory
Subject: FW:
Undue burden exemption

FILED/ACCEPTED
DEC - 8 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

*** Non-Public: For Internal Use Only ***

-----Original Message-----

From: Ronald Demey [mailto:rondemey@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 5:35 PM
To: FCCINFO; Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; info@tdi-online.org
Subject:

- US Senator Barbara Boxer
- US Senator Diane Feinstein
- US Representative _____

The FCC mailing address and fax number is:

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20054

FAX: Attn: Chairman Martin
(202) 418-0232

Feel free to copy this sample letter below and add your personal part in the letter. If you know of any locally produced outdoor or religious shows that ARE captioned, please to mention it in your letter.

September 18, 2006

- Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
- Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
- Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
- Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
- Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and

other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens – they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships, long-term captioning service agreements, and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover and minimize the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ronald F. De Mey

680 Mission Street #21 J
San Francisco, CA 94105

10/4/2006

rondemey@hotmail.com

cc:

Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Tom
Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office Cheryl King, Deputy Chief, Disability
Rights Office

US Senator Barbara Boxer and US Senator Diane Feinstein

Ron

Ronald F. De Mey
680 Mission Street, #21 J
San Francisco, CA 94105
U.S.A

VP/TTY 415.979.0357
USA Relay Service 711, please tell the operator to dial for you 415.979.0357

Deaf/Hearing welcome to call me on
MSN Messenger/WebCam: rondemey@hotmail.com

[Try the new Live Search today!](#)



National Office: Suite 1540, 1700 N. Moore Street, Arlington, VA 22209-1903
703/524-6686, Fax: 703/524-6630, TTY: 703/524-6639
Website: www.resna.org

Canadian mailing address: P.O. Box 969, Etobicoke Station U
Etobicoke, Ontario M8Z 5P9, Canada

FILED/ACCEPTED

October 27, 2006

DEC - 8 2006

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) is an interdisciplinary association of people with a common interest in technology and disability. Our purpose is to improve the potential of people with disabilities to achieve their goals through the use of technology. In accord with our purpose, we are voicing our concern with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) decision to grant exemptions from its closed captioning rules in the Matter of New Beginnings Ministries and Anglers for Christ Ministries, Inc.; Memorandum Opinion and Order, CGB-CC-005, CGB-CC-007, adopted September 12, 2006.

RESNA is not addressing the merits or demerits of the two particular exemptions. Rather, RESNA takes exception to the point that the Commission's action in this matter appears to have the effect of promulgating an unfortunate change in its rules, i.e., the creation of a new category of presumptive exemptions from closed captioning that acts to seriously undercut the historical and national efforts to serve the disability community.

It is our understanding that the FCC's rules provide that petitioners present sufficient evidence to support an exemption from the closed captioning standards under the "undue burden" standards. The proposed standard "...curtails other activities important to its mission" absent a qualifier similar to the proceeding "substantially curtail its programming" is sufficiently lax as to be rendered ineffectual to maintain closed captioning.

The issue of "undue burden" bears closer examination. In addition to broadcast costs, a content producer must incur some set of production costs. The "burden" of captioning must be set against this backdrop of other costs that they are clearly willing to incur in order to air their show. If the captioning turns out to be a relatively small expense compared to the costs that they are willing to bear, then it is unclear how captioning can be considered an undue burden. For an independent producer, captioning can be done inexpensively. These content providers have the ability to take advantage of free

captioning tools which allow them to self-caption the show either using existing production staff or volunteers. A new generation of low cost (and excellent) captioning services is also available. Any combination would keep a show's production cost down and might make their pitch to broadcast station's acquisition department even more attractive. In the general case, an independent producer should demonstrate that all options have been considered and for practical purposes, "undue burden" should be almost unattainable.

RESNA is committed to extending the benefits of technology to people with disabilities. The closed captioning statute contains congressionally-approved waivers as well as a mechanism, the "undue burden" standard, by which the Commission may grant individual waivers to petitioners who provide evidence that they meet the standard. Thus we request that the FCC take remedial action to protect television access, and more broadly, access to all broadcast streams for people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Glenn Hedman".

Glenn Hedman, PE, ATP, RET
President

S

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-184

From: sepielli@aol.com
 Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 11:57 AM
 To: Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Monica Desai; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov
 Cc: info@tdi-online.org
 Subject: Tv Captioning

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

> >
 > > Dear Commissioners,
 > >
 > > This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI
 > > and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the
 > > Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 13, 2006. We
 > > respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 13, 2006 decisions
 > > regarding television captioning waivers.
 > >
 > > Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within
 > > their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their
 > > reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they
 > > were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other
 > > assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a
 > > legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a
 > > ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a
 > > significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an
 > > expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their
 > > membership and other support from the community. When children and
 > > adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are
 > > influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part
 > > to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability
 > > among senior citizens - they will find themselves depending on
 > > captioning to listen to the message.
 > >
 > > We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local
 > > church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be
 > > fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of
 > > hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with
 > > other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and
 > > service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from
 > > the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to
 > > provide.
 > >
 > > We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the
 > > captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when
 > > appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two
 > > programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We
 > > ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as
 > > sponsorships and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover the
 > > cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their
 > > production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.
 > >
 > > Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to
 > > the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives,
 > > and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in
 > > society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also
 > > important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

11/9/2006

> >
> > Thank you for your consideration,
> >
> > Sincerely,
Peter J. Sepielli
4735 Private Place
Waldorf, MD 20601

Check out the new AOL. Most comprehensive set of free safety and security tools, free access to millions of high-quality videos from across the web, free AOL Mail and more.

Docket No. 06-181

R

Pam Gregory

From: Jay Keithley
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 9:06 AM
To: Pam Gregory
Subject: FW: unfair FCC Decision

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

*** Non-Public: For Internal Use Only ***

-----Original Message-----

From: KSROthschild@aol.com [mailto:KSROthschild@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2006 10:10 AM
To: FCCINFO; Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; info@tdi-online.org
Subject: unfair FCC Decision

October 28, 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 13, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 13, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens – they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and

10/30/2006

service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

If this e-mail doesn't move you at all, maybe you should consider making a decision to tell these broadcasters to stop developing sound recording as well so these with hearing can watch television without sound and resort to other modes. How will you feel watching television without sound?

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Kenneth S. Rothschild
5029 Strohm Avenue
North Hollywood, CA 91601-4152
KSRothschild@aol.com

cc:

Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Tom Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office
Cheryl King, Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Office

Docket No. 06-191

S

Pam Gregory

From: Jay Keithley
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 9:07 AM
To: Pam Gregory
Subject: FW: Please save the captions for emergency, business or social purposes!

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

*** Non-Public: For Internal Use Only ***

-----Original Message-----

From: james w or jackie stover [mailto:jimjackie64@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2006 12:56 PM
To: FCCINFO; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; info@tdi-online.org
Subject: Please save the captions for emergency, business or social purposes!

October 28, 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 13, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 13, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability

10/30/2006

among senior citizens â€” they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

James & Jackie Stover
190 Alexander Rd
Star City, AR 71667-9867
jimjackie64@yahoo.com

cc:

Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Tom Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office
Cheryl King, Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Office

 Jackie Stover
 James Stover 

[Check out the New Yahoo! Mail](#) - Fire up a more powerful email and get things done faster.

Docket 06-181

(L)

Pam Gregory

From: Jay Keithley
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 9:06 AM
To: Pam Gregory
Subject: FW: FCC's 9/13 rulings on television captioning waiver requests
Importance: High

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

*** Non-Public: For Internal Use Only ***

-----Original Message-----

From: Jack Lambertson [mailto:JackLamberton@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 28, 2006 12:22 PM
To: Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; info@tdi-online.org
Subject: FCC's 9/13 rulings on television captioning waiver requests
Importance: High

28 October 2006

Mr. Kevin J. Martin, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
Mr. Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Mr. Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Ms. Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Mr. Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 13, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 13, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

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We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who

are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

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Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Jack C. Lamberton
822 Stingray Terrace
Fremont, CA 94536
JackLamberton@comcast.net

cc: Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Tom Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office
Cheryl King, Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Office,
Claude Stout, Executive Director, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of
Hearing, Inc.

Docket No. 06-181

10/27/06

Rebekah Weinstein
Beka0430@hotmail.com
140 Bay Ridge Parkway, Apartment C2
Brooklyn, NY 11209

W
FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I am angry and I protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

As a sibling of a deaf adult, I am appalled at the insensitivity to the needs of the Deaf population. My brother should be able to enjoy television program as equally as I do. Kevin Martin should be standing up in support of equal access for people with disabilities, NOT against it.

FCC must reverse their decision, support deaf and hard of hearing consumers, and support closed captioning.

Docket No. 06-181

W

10/27/06

Rebekah Weinstein

Beka0430@hotmail.com

140 Bay Ridge Parkway, Apartment C2
Brooklyn, NY 11209

I am angry and I protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

As a sibling of a deaf adult, I am appalled at the insensitivity to the needs of the Deaf population. My brother should be able to enjoy television program as equally as I do. Kevin Martin should be standing up in support of equal access for people with disabilities, NOT against it.

FCC must reverse their decision, support deaf and hard of hearing consumers, and support closed captioning.

RECEIVED & INV. 10/21/06

OCT 24 2006

FCC - MAILROOM

HILDA DRUCKER

5 SCHENCK AVE., APT. 31
GREAT NECK, N.Y. 11021

cc

445-12th St.

5W

Washington, DC

20054

Dear Sirs

Re DA-1802,

CGR - CC-0005 and

CGR - CC-0007

I protest recent Order

granting exemptions

from closed captioning

issued by CGR. These

Orders appear to create

a new regulation,

carving out a new

exemption basis, not

in keeping with

current regulations.

I am outraged and

believe the FCC has

created a loophole

that allows any one

with enough "it costs

too much" can over

rise. Please review -

order immediately.

I, and the rest of

the broad-of-hearing

community need

closed captioning!

Sincerely,

Hilda Drucker

5 Schenck Ave.

Great Neck, NY.

11021

Docket No. 06-181

Hilda Drucker

Docket No 06-181

P

October 15, 2006

Chairman Martin
FCC, 445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20054



Dear FCC Chairman Martin:

I am writing to you to protest the recent orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. We are outraged and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity complaining of cost, can now use.

I have profound hearing loss. I rely on closed captioning because I cannot understand speech the way others do with normal hearing. I am truly horrified at the thought of this happening. Please reconsider immediately! Those with hearing loss need closed captioning to maintain a quality of life that others take for granted. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ms Carol D. Polite".

Carol Polite
102 Linden Drive
Elkins Park, PA 19027

C

Docket No. 05-231

slickycox@yahoo.com wrote on 8/31/2006 8:05:28 PM :

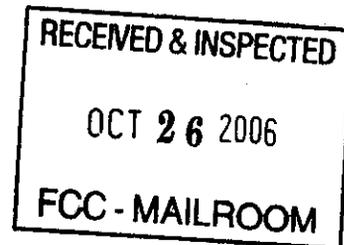
I am deaf and sometimes I dont understand the map picture what the weather is about, but I prefer closed captioned on it so I can understand and what if tornado warning or weather warning come up, I must know what they say with closed captioned so I can prepare for myself and my family to escape to shelter to protect us from tornado or else. If they dont put closed captioned I will not know if tornado coming thru my town and kill us and other deafies. We are taxpayers They must provided closed captioned for Deaf/hard of hearing people.

Davona Cox
Oklahoma
Do you Yahoo!?
Everyone is raving about the all-new Yahoo! Mail.

Docket No. 06-181

R

C/o PBL High school
Panther Way
Paxton, IL 60957
October 4, 2006



Kevin Martin
Chairman of the FCC
FCC 445 12th Street
Washington, DC 20054

Dear Mr. Martin,

I am writing to inform you that I protest the recent orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by the CGB. I think that using the reason "it costs too much" is a bad reason to exempt some programs from being captioned. I have been in classes with hearing-impaired girls and I have seen first hand how difficult it is for them to understand and get as much out of it as the rest of us can.

I would really appreciate it if you consider not exempting some programs. I think it would be best if all programs were captioned.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Joy Rimke
Joy Rimke

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

W

From: Jay Keithley
Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2006 1:25 PM
To: Pam Gregory
Subject: FW: Captioning exemption for television shows

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

FYI; undue burden matter

*** Non-Public: For Internal Use Only ***

-----Original Message-----

From: jwillis [mailto:jwillis@drlogick.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2006 11:52 AM

To: fccinfo@fcc.gov.Kevin.Martin@fcc.gov.Michael.Copps@fcc.gov.Jonathan.Adelstein@fcc.gov.Deborah.Tate@fcc.gov.Robert.McDowell@fcc.gov.Monica.Desai@fcc.gov.Jay.Keithley@fcc.gov.Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov.Cheryl.King@fcc.gov.info@tdi-online.org
Subject: Captioning exemption for television shows

December 5, 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

I am in Canada but then I also watch some of these shows on occasion as well. The USA has always been a leader in helping me to be able to understand television programmes by making sure they have closed captioning. To give a waiver is a step backwards.

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

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Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From: Tammy Mitchell [tamster@faithmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 11:37 AM
To: Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonatha.Adelstein@fcc.gov; Deborah Tate; Rober.McDowell@fcc.gov; Monica Desai
Subject: Closed Captioning

I am writing to ask that oppose granting exemptions for closed captioning. As a mother of a 10 year old son who is severly hearing impaired, I cannot begin to tell you how important closed captioning is to my son and how much a part of his daily life it is. He depends on closed captioning to enjoy watching movies or TV shows. Without captioning, he must try to watch them and read lips on the shows and pick up what little he can of the actual sounds from the TV. It is hard enough to keep up with a show or movie by having to read and try to watch the pictures. I urge you to sit at your TV and put a movie on, turn the sounds off and try to read the lips of the actors and enjoy the show. If you wear glasses or contacts, take those off and try to enjoy the show. After doing that, I am sure that you will understand what it is like for a deaf or hard of hearing person in this world. Take a look at the number of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing in this country. We are in dire need of help in making this country aware of the daily needs for the deaf and hard of hearing. Deafness is the most misunderstood disability.

My son and I appreciate your help in this issue!

Sincerely and with an ache in my heart,
Tammy Mitchell

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-99)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 1

To: DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE	From: WILLIAM M. VANCE
Dept./Agency: FCC	Phone #: 757-865-2313
Fax #: 202-418-2439	Fax #: 757-864-9292
NSN 7540-01-317-7368	5999-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Docket No. 06-181

September 26, 2006

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20054

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate,

Re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

I protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

The FCC weakened the closed captioning rules, and appears to have created new standards and new rules for permitting programs to be televised without closed captions. I believe the FCC violated the closed captioning rules.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing want access to televised information and entertainment, just like everyone else.

Closed captioning is an essential part of any televised program. Captioning is not too difficult or too expensive.

I cannot watch television programs that are not captioned.

Please reconsider these FCC decisions and support closed captioning.

Thanks,



William M. Vance
619 Lakeland Crescent
Yorktown, Virginia 23693-3838

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

P

From: Sara Patterson [dspatterson4@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 10:52 PM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

October 30, 2006
FCC Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Monica Desai

Dear Monica Desai,

I protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

The FCC weakened the closed captioning rules, and appears to have created new standards and new rules for permitting programs to be televised without closed captions. I believe the FCC violated the closed captioning rules.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing want access to televised information and entertainment, just like everyone else.

Closed captioning is an essential part of any televised program. Captioning is not too difficult or too expensive.

I cannot watch television programs that are not captioned.

Please reconsider these FCC decisions and support closed captioning.

Sincerely,

Sara Patterson
30 St. James Drive
Northborough, MA 01532-1948

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

D

From: Dawn Ann Duboski [dawnannd@dhcc.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 2:55 PM
To: FCCINFO; Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; Dawn Ann Duboski
Subject: Sept 13 decision regarding television captioning waivers

FILED/ACCEPTED

October 31, 2006

DEC - 8 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 13, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 13, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Dawn Ann Duboski
132 Country Farms Rd
Marlton, NJ 08053-1402
Dawnannd@dhcc.org

cc:
Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Tom Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office
Cheryl King, Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Office

FILED/ACCEPTED ✓

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

DEC - 8 2006

From: Xenia Fretter Woods [xenia@humboldtast.com]**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2006 7:16 PMFederal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**To:** Kevin Martin; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica Desai**Subject:** Please keep captioning strong!

Hello -

In our rural community, the news stations do not currently provide captioning of their evening news. Deaf people therefore do not have access to the local broadcast news! Deaf people obviously can't hear the radio, and the newspaper does not have up-to-the-minute, breaking news, video, and many other important features of broadcasts. If you change the rules regarding "undue burden," we will not be able to get our local news stations to caption their news broadcasts.

Imagine if you could not turn on the sound on your TV. How would you feel if your local news were completely inaccessible to you?

Please consider how this affects people who are already left out of many public communications.

Thank you,

Xenia F. Woods
Eureka, CA

06-R 216405

9

Pam Gregory

Docket No 06-181

FILED/ACCEPTED

From: NEGRAY@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 11:52 AM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Closed Captioning

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

It appears that instead of going forward for hearing impaired people, the Commission is going back to the dark ages. How about if you try sitting in front of the television with the sound off and try to make heads or tails of what is being said. Maybe then you will realize what we go through. I was under the impression that all programming was to be captioned by the end of this year with no exceptions. What happened?

Nancy Gray

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

E

From: Christopher Eaton [christophere2000@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 04, 2006 4:02 AM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

November 3, 2006
FCC Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Monica Desai

Dear Monica Desai,

I protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

The FCC weakened the closed captioning rules, and appears to have created new standards and new rules for permitting programs to be televised without closed captions. I believe the FCC violated the closed captioning rules.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing want access to televised information and entertainment, just like everyone else.

Closed captioning is an essential part of any televised program. Captioning is not too difficult or too expensive.

I cannot watch television programs that are not captioned.

Please reconsider these FCC decisions and support closed captioning.

Sincerely,

Christopher Eaton
710 Gray Mount Circle
Elkton, MD 21921-6274

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

FILED/ACCEPTED

From: Alexis Tibor [anagt@uaa.alaska.edu]
Sent: Saturday, November 04, 2006 11:24 AM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Change in Closed Captioning

DEC - 8 2006
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In Re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

Dear Chief DeSai,

I am appalled at the recent orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These orders appear to create a new regulation, which seems to be a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. I am surprised and saddened and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can now use. Please reconsider! I know and am related to many people who need closed captioning! Please do not punish them.

I appreciate your attention.

Sincerely,
Alexis Tibor
7741 Randamar Circle
Anchorage Alaska 99507
(907) 786 -1115

FILED/ACCEPTED

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

DEC 8 2006

From: Betty Levis [betty@dhcc.org]**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2006 3:06 PMFederal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**To:** FCCINFO; Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell**Cc:** Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King**Subject:** Sept 13 decision regarding television captioning waivers

October 31, 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI and other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 13, 2006. We respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 13, 2006 decisions regarding television captioning waivers.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their membership and other support from the community. When children and adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part to the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability among senior citizens - they will find themselves depending on captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from the "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as sponsorships and aftermarket sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable the provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to the community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, and c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Levis
117 S. Eagle Road Apt 119
Havertown, Pa 19083-3330

betty@dhcc.org

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

C

From: Hear MyHands [hearmyhands@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 11:45 PM
To: hearmyhands@hotmail.com
Subject: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007 (copy to Commissioners, et. al)

Dear FCC:

Regarding DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007, I adamantly protest the recent orders that grant exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These Orders appear to create a new regulation that carve out a new exemption basis, which is not in keeping with current regulations! I am OUTRAGED and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost ANY entity crying "it costs too much!!" can now use. Please reconsider immediately! We need our closed captioning! I have TWO DEAF TEEN SONS in my household, and if this is what the future holds for them and other Deaf persons in this supposedly technological age, i.e. "Progress is soaring, but for YOU, it's going BACKWARD!," well then, this is the most outrageous scenario the Deaf can encounter! We have to fight every day to get the same benefits as others -- not MORE, but just the SAME! -- even for things like getting informed during hurricanes for newscasts!! Is it not bad enough that captions are often garbled up, rendering them useless to the Deaf??? Are we now at the stage where the FCC is carving away caption options for some programs?? RELATIVELY SPEAKING, CAPTIONING IS NOT AN EXPENSIVE ADDITION TO PROGRAMMING! IT PROBABLY COSTS LESS THAN ONE OF THE CATERED LUNCHES SOME PRODUCTIONS ROUNTINELY HAVE ON HAND! But to allow them to cry "we can't afford it" shouldn't be an option! It's pretty well known many people just DON'T WANT TO PAY FOR IT because they consider the Deaf part of the population they just don't care about and whether they watch their program or not, and now you have given many people a LOOPHOLE to carry out that mission! The captioning situation for the Deaf all over this country is bad enough as it is, but to go out of your way to make it worse, well then, THIS IS A DISGRACE!

Dorothy Cora

1717 Palmer Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789
hearmyhands@hotmail.com

Find a local pizza place, music store, museum and more...then map the best route! <http://local.live.com?FORM=MGA001>

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

From: Kathleen Pulver [k.pulver@mchsi.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 8:32 AM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

November 2, 2006
FCC Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Monica Desai

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC - 8 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Monica Desai,

I protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

The FCC weakened the closed captioning rules, and appears to have created new standards and new rules for permitting programs to be televised without closed captions. I believe the FCC violated the closed captioning rules.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing want access to televised information and entertainment, just like everyone else.

Closed captioning is an essential part of any televised program. Captioning is not too difficult or too expensive.

I cannot watch television programs that are not captioned.

Please reconsider these FCC decisions and support closed captioning.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Pulver
14 Brentwood Place
Valdosta, GA 31602-2252