

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

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

FILED/ACCEPTED
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
DEC - 7 2006

FYI; undue burden matter

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

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

-----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.

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.

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