



Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Washington, D.C. 20554

06-181

CCB

FILED/ACCEPTED

JAN - 9 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

December 11, 2006

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Control No. 0602503-Pol

Mr. Joshua Cohen
859 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401-2910

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Thank you for your correspondence to Congressman Peter A. DeFazio, concerning recent Commission actions granting certain exemptions from our closed captioning rules. Congressman DeFazio forwarded your letter to Chairman Kevin J. Martin of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) for our review and requested that the response be addressed directly to you. The Commission is committed to ensuring that the disability community has access to all telecommunications goods and services.

On September 11, 2006, the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau adopted an *Order* resolving two petitions for exemption from the closed captioning rules, CG Docket No. 06-181. Petitioners, New Beginning Ministries and Anglers for Christ Ministries, Inc. -- nonprofit organizations whose programming was produced by in-house volunteers with limited funding -- alleged that compliance would be an undue burden and would likely cause them to discontinue their programming.

The New Beginning and Anglers petitions were put on Public Notice, and an opposition was filed by a coalition of several deaf and hard-of-hearing advocacy groups. The Bureau considered the arguments of the opponents, but ruled in favor of the petitioners. Shortly, thereafter, the Bureau issued a number of letter orders granting undue burden exemption petitions filed by other similarly situated video programming owners.

On October 12, 2006, several advocacy groups for the deaf and hard of hearing filed an application for Commission review of the Bureau *Order* and letter orders. The advocacy groups requested that all the petitions for relief from the closed captioning rules based on undue burden be placed on public notice. On November 7, 2006, the Commission released a Public Notice (PN) noting the application for review and seeking comments on all undue burden petitions not previously put on public notice. The PN states that the *Order* and letters orders granted by the Bureau will be held in abeyance until the comment cycle on the additional applications noticed is closed. The *Order* and letter orders will be reviewed by the Commission.

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List ABCDE

Mr. Joshua Cohen

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We have placed a copy of your correspondence in the public record for this proceeding, CG Docket No. 06-181. We appreciate your inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Keithley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jay Keithley
Deputy Bureau Chief
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

cc: Peter A. DeFazio

PETER A. DeFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HIGHWAYS, TRANSIT AND
PIPELINES, RANKING
AVIATION
RAILROADS

HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE:
ECONOMIC SECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION AND CYBERSECURITY

RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE:
FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

October 19, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

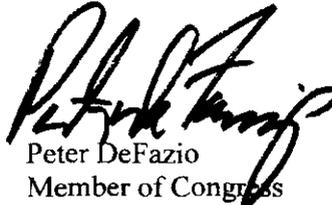
Dear Chairman Martin:

Enclosed is an e-mail from one of my constituents in Oregon. According to his letter, he has concerns regarding a number of exemptions from closed captioning television programs.

I would appreciate you contacting my constituent directly to explain the current FCC policy on closed captioning requirements. Please send a copy of your response to my office as well.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

PAD/ajd

cc: Diane Atkinson
Congressional Liaison Specialist
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-C445
Washington, DC 20554

31 OCT 2006 RC/L

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- 2134 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3704
(202) 225-6416
- 151 WEST 7TH AVENUE, #400
EUGENE, OR 97401-2649
(541) 465-6732
1-800-944-9603
- 125 CENTRAL AVENUE, #350
COOS BAY, OR 97420
(541) 269-2609
- 612 SE JACKSON STREET, #9
ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(541) 440-3523
- defazio.house.gov

C.B.B. Policy - Closed Captioning
2503

Davis, Aaron

From: Leineweber, Colleen on behalf of OR04, GoDucks
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2006 11:08 AM
To: Davis, Aaron
Subject: 6414347

Subject: ajd Science and Technology Date: 10/5/2006 12:59:00 PM

Constituent Information

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Joshua Cohen
859 Willamette St
Eugene, Oregon 97401
Email: joshcohen@kintera.com Phone:

Prior Email Contact

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7621436, ajd Health Care, Rx Drugs, Medicare, Sent: 9 Sep 05-Stock letter: 3944
7023238, ajd fcc Other 05092060160023238, Deleted
7723211, ajd fcc Other 05092060159723211, Sent: 14 Oct 05-Custom Response
7054533, dmd trout Other 0512017516054533, Deleted
7027458, dmd trout Other 05120775986027458, Sent: 16 Dec 05-Stock letter: 4247
7423264, dmd trout Other 05120775981423264, Sent: 16 Dec 05-Stock letter: 4247
7427498, dmd trout Other 05120775986427498, Sent: 16 Dec 05-Stock letter: 4247
6310869, kmg Other, Pending
8310869, trv Other, Sent: 19 May 06-Stock letter: 4268
8321095, trv Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Sent: 26 Jun 06-Stock letter: 3889
8310946, trv Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Sent: 29 Jun 06-Custom Response
8510874, pld Other, Sent: 9 Jun 06-Stock letter: 3924

6724932, pid Other, Pending

Message

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October 5, 2006
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
United States House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-

Dear Representative DeFazio,

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,

Joshua Cohen
859 Willamette St
Eugene, OR 97401-2910