



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

06-181

CGB

FILED/ACCEPTED

JAN - 9 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Control No. 0602661-Pol

December 11, 2006

Ms. Joanne Williams
1575 W Warm Springs Road, Unit 324
Henderson, NV 89014-3590

Dear Ms. Williams:

Thank you for your letter to Senator John Ensign, concerning recent Commission actions granting certain exemptions from our closed captioning rules. Senator Ensign forwarded your letter to 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

Ms. Joanne Williams

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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, sweeping initial "J".

Jay Keithley
Deputy Bureau Chief
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

cc: John Ensign

JOHN ENSIGN
NEVADA

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2805

November 13, 2006

17 NOV 2006 RCUD

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Diane Atkinson
Congressional Liaison Specialist
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW #8-C453
Washington, D.C. 20554

*CPB
Closed Caption
2/6/61*

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

I have received the enclosed correspondence from a constituent, Ms. Joanne Williams, regarding closed captions and possible FCC violations.

Due to the desire of my office to be responsive to all inquiries, your consideration of the enclosed correspondence will be greatly appreciated. Please reply directly to Ms. Williams, and forward a copy of that response to me, marked to the attention of Justin Rzepka in my Washington office.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,


JOHN ENSIGN
United States Senator

JE/jmm

Enclosure

iawormsg.txt
Capitol Correspond
Incoming Email Message

Constituent ID: 81957

Ms. Joanne Williams
1575 West Warm Springs Road, #324
Henderson, NV 89014

Email: Jobert84@earthlink.net

Phone(s): (H) (800)555-1212

Activity Created: 10/8/2006
File Location: 370936
Interest Code(s): BUCK

Incoming Message:

Date Received: 10/8/2006 5:20:45 PM
Topic/Subject Desc: Judiciary
October 8, 2006
The Honorable John Eric Ensign
United States Senate
364 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Ensign,

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,

Joanne Williams
1575 W Warm Springs Rd Unit 324
Henderson, NV 89014-3590