



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

December 11, 2006

Control No. 0602611-Pol

The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson  
U. S. House of Representatives  
2440 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Emerson:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Debbie Rolwing, concerning recent Commission actions granting certain exemptions from our closed captioning rules. 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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The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

Page 2

We have placed a copy of your correspondence, including Ms. Rolwing's 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 cursive script that reads "Jay Keithley".

Jay Keithley  
Deputy Bureau Chief  
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

JO ANN EMERSON  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
8TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMITTEE:  
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
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E-Mail and Web Page:  
<http://www.house.gov/emerson>

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2508

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October 30, 2006

Ms. Diane Atkinson  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, NW, Room 8-C445  
Washington, DC 20429

*CSB*  
*Closed Captions*  
*2611*

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

I have received the enclosed inquiry from my constituent, Debbie Rolwing. As you can see, Debbie Rolwing has questions concerning the FCC's approval of 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions and has articulated them in the enclosed letter. I would like to ask your careful review of these comments and your thoughtful consideration of the points that have been raised.

Please direct your response to Teddy Coin of my staff at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

*Jo Ann Emerson*  
JO ANN EMERSON  
Member of Congress

JAE/rc

# Snapshot Report: Incoming Constituent Message

Report Date: 10/10/2006

Staff: rcoin

Address To:  
Name: Ms. Debbie Rolwing  
Address: 1304 State Street  
Charleston MO 63834-1429 USA  
Email: Poststampgirl@yahoo.com URL:  
Home Phone: Cell Phone:  
Work Phone: Fax:  
Salutation: Dear Ms. Rolwing: In Type: EML Reply Ltr:  
Interest: BUCK Organization: Letter:  
Classification: Personal: Title:  
Reference #: Group:

Message Body:

October 7, 2006  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson  
United States House of Representatives  
2440 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-

Dear Representative Emerson,

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,

Debbie Rolwing  
1304 State St  
Charleston, MO 63834-1429