

06-181



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

CGB
 FILED/ACCEPTED

JAN - 9 2007

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

December 11, 2006

Control No. 0602557-Pol

Mr. George Hamilton
 1202 Rustic Circle, S.E.
 Huntsville, AL 35802-4014

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Thank you for your letter to Senator Richard C. Shelby, concerning recent Commission actions granting certain exemptions from our closed captioning rules. Senator Shelby 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.

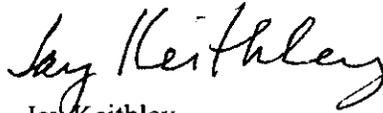
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Mr. George Hamilton

Page 2

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 cursive script that reads "Jay Keithley".

Jay Keithley
Deputy Bureau Chief
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

cc: Richard C. Shelby

RICHARD SHELBY
ALABAMA

CHAIRMAN — COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN — SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

110 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103
(202) 224-5744

<http://shelby.senate.gov>

E-mail: senator@shelby.senate.gov

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

October 26, 2006

Diane Atkinson
Congressional Liaison Specialist
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-C445
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

Enclosed, please find a copy of correspondence I received
from George Hamilton.

Please review the enclosed and address the concerns raised.
I have notified my constituent to expect a timely reply directly
from you.

Sincerely,

Richard Shelby

Richard Shelby

RCS/art
Enclosure

STATE OFFICES:

1800 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
321 FEDERAL BUILDING
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203
(205) 731-1384

○ HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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○ 113 SAINT JOSEPH STREET
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○ 15 LEE STREET
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○ 1118 GREENSBORO AVENUE, #240
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(205) 759-5047

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RICHARD SHELBY
ALABAMA

CHAIRMAN—COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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October 26, 2006

Mr. George Hamilton
1202 Rustic Circle S.E.
Huntsville, Alabama 35802-4014

COPY

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TUSCALOOSA, AL 35401
(205) 759-5047

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding closed captioning exemptions for religious television networks.

I have contacted the FCC on your behalf and have asked them to respond to your concerns. You should expect a reply to your concerns directly from the agency in a timely manner. Please do not hesitate to contact me about this or other matters in the future.

Sincerely,

Richard Shelby

Richard Shelby

RCS/art

COPY

Shelby, Senator (Shelby)

493282

From: George Hamilton [George.Hamilton@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2006 11:52 PM
To: Shelby, Senator (Shelby)
Subject: Re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

647708

September 30, 2006
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Shelby,

I protest the [REDACTED] 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,

George Hamilton
1202 Rustic Cir SE
Southeast
Huntsville, AL 35802-4014