

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. 0602342-Pol

Ms. Nancy Billingslea  
15 Jacob Lee Ct.  
Reisterstown, MD 21136-1316

Dear Ms. Billingslea:

Thank you for your letter to Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, concerning recent Commission actions granting certain exemptions from our closed captioning rules. Senator Mikulski 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.

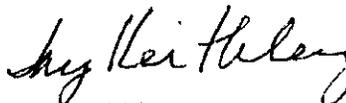
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Ms. Nancy Billingslea

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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,



Jay Keithley  
Deputy Bureau Chief  
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

cc: Barbara A. Mikulski

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI  
MARYLAND

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(202) 224-4654  
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United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

October 13, 2006

Ms. Diane Atkinson  
Congressional Liason Specialist  
Office of Legislative & Intergov't. Affairs  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 8C445  
Washington, D.C. 20554-2101

*CEB*  
*Policy Analyst*  
*2342*

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

I am writing to request your consideration of the attached correspondence from my constituents. Please respond directly to all ten constituents and send a copy to Alex Csicsek of my staff. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Csicsek at (202) 224-4654.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator

BAM:jac  
Enclosure

23 OCT 2006 R 10:50

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From: "webservd@www.senate.gov" <webservd@www.senate.gov>  
Date: 9/25/2006 11:59:49 PM  
To: webmail@mikulski-ig.senate.gov  
Subject: www\_email

<APP>SCCMail  
<>Send</>  
<PREFIX>Ms.</PREFIX>  
<FIRST>Nancy</FIRST>  
<LAST>Billingslea</LAST>  
<ADDR1>15 Jacob Lee Ct.</ADDR1>  
<ADDR2></ADDR2>  
<CITY>Reisterstown</CITY>  
<STATE>MD</STATE>  
<ZIP>21136</ZIP>  
<EMAIL>NancyBAS1@aol.com</EMAIL>  
<ISSUE>space</ISSUE>  
<MSG>September 25, 2006  
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Mikulski,

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,

Nancy Billingslea  
15 Jacob Lee Ct.  
Reisterstown, MD 21136-1316  
</MSG>  
</APP>