



DATE: 11/11/06 10:00 AM

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. 0602341-Pol

Ms. Julie Bourne
312 Stone Springs Lane
Middletown, MD 21769-7735

Dear Ms. Bourne:

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. Julie Bourne

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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 cursive script, appearing to read "Jay Keithley".

Jay Keithley
Deputy Bureau Chief
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau

cc: Barbara A. Mikulski

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

SUITE 503
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

(202) 224-4654
TDD: (202) 224-6223

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

CB
Policy Observed
Capitol

2341

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

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:jac
Enclosure

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<http://mikulski.senate.gov/>

28 OCT 2006 PM 4:00

From: "webservd@www.senate.gov" <webservd@www.senate.gov>
Date: 9/24/2006 4:49:59 PM
To: webmail@mikulski-ig.senate.gov
Subject: www_email

<APP>SCCMAIL
<>Send</>
<PREFIX>Ms.</PREFIX>
<FIRST>Julie</FIRST>
<LAST>Bourne</LAST>
<ADDR1>312 Stone Springs Ln</ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Middletown</CITY>
<STATE>MD</STATE>
<ZIP>21769</ZIP>
<EMAIL>juliebourne@gmail.com</EMAIL>
<ISSUE>space</ISSUE>
<MSG>September 24, 2006
The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Mikulski,

I strongly protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

I am grateful every time I turn on TV, as I am able to enjoy nearly any show on the cable TV. Although I am a huge fan of HGTV, I love being able to switch to any channel at any time and enjoy what is being shown on the TV. That might seem not to be a big deal, BUT when deprived of it, it becomes a huge issue.

I was stunned to find out that 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 you. Just like your kid. Just like your parents.

Speaking of your parents, it is very likely your parents will need close captioning as the aging process takes effect on their sensory systems. It would be horrible for them to suddenly be forced to stop watching a favorite show, because they have lost their hearing AND these shows decided to stop captioning their dialogues.

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,

Julie Bourne
312 Stone Springs Ln
Middletown, MD 21769-7735
</MSG>
</APP>