

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. 0602345-Pol

Mrs. Wendy Hill-House
 2110 Hallmark Drive
 Gambrills, MD 21054

Dear Mrs. Hill-House:

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.

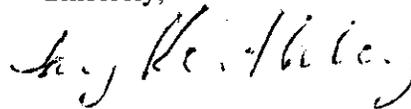
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Mrs. Wendy Hill-House

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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

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TDD: (202) 224-5223

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

CCB
Policy-Closed
1/10/06
2345

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

23 OCT 2006 PM 10:00

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From: "webservd@www.senate.gov" <webservd@www.senate.gov>
Date: 9/26/2006 11:25:31 PM
To: webmail@mikulski-iq.senate.gov
Subject: www_email

<APP>SCCMAIL
<PREFIX>Mrs.</PREFIX>
<FIRST>Wendy</FIRST>
<LAST>House</LAST>
<SUFFIX></SUFFIX>
<ADDR1>2110 Hallmark Drive</ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Gambrills</CITY>
<STATE>MD</STATE>
<ZIP>21054</ZIP>
<EMAIL>whill7house@verizon.net</EMAIL>
<ISSUE>other</ISSUE>

<MSG>From: Wendy House

Date: 09/25/06 23:40:02

To: Kevin.Martin@fcc.gov; Michael.Copps@fcc.gov; Jonathan.Adelstein@fcc.gov;
Deborah.Tate@fcc.gov; Robert.McDowell@fcc.gov
Cc: Monica.Desai@fcc.gov; Jay.Keithley@fcc.gov; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov;
Cheryl.King@fcc.gov; info@tdi-online.org; rep.cardin@mail.house.gov
Subject: Closed Captioning Waiver

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI
And other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the
Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We
Respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions
Regarding television captioning waivers.

Being deaf since birth and not knowing sign language, my reading and vocabulary
were very low. Until I entered in high school when I was sixteen years old, I
entered deaf and hard of hearing resource room and learned about closed
captioned from my deaf friends. I am so grateful for the introduction of closed
caption because my vocabulary and reading skills have improved significantly.
While watching TV, I was able to follow through programs without having to rely
or ask my family members to tell me what actors, actresses, reporters, or
comedians were saying. If not for closed captioning shows, it could lead
frustrations and anger among my family. I truly care a great deal about my
family and want to maintain our relationships stronger than resentful towards
me.

On Sundays, I would often watch Joel Osteen, The Hourly (father and son's show
in California), and many more, including Billy Graham and his son whenever they
are in the evenings to spread the gospel. Like I mentioned early above my
reading was bad that included understanding and memorizing King James Version
which was not my strong suit. Until I learned sign language and at the same
time watch religion shows to increase my comprehension and vocabulary. Now, I

can give back to the deaf and hard of hearing community to educate them of the need to read to improve their writing, comprehension, and vocabulary.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within Their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their Reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they Were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other Assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a Legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a Ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a Significant population group, the churches will find themselves with an Expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their Membership and other support from the community. When children and Adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are Influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part To the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability Among senior citizens - they will find themselves depending on Captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local Church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be Fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of Hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with Other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and Service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from The "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to Provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the Captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when Appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two Programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We Ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as Sponsorships, long-term captioning service agreements, and aftermarket Sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover and minimize the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable The provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to The community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, And c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in Society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also Important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Wendy Hill-House
2110 Hallmark Drive
Gambrills, MD 21054
whill7house@verizon.net

Cc:

Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Tom Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office
Cheryl King, Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Office

Barbara A. Mikulski, US Senator (Maryland)
Paul S. Sarbanes, US Senator (Maryland)

Benjamin L. Cardin, US Congressman of Maryland </MSG>
</APP>