



BET Networks > Famous Music > MTV Networks > Paramount Pictures

Keith R. Murphy  
Vice President  
Government Relations & Regulatory Counsel

October 9, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals - Room TWB204  
445 Twelfth Street, Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Presentation in MB Docket Nos. 07-198 and 04-207**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 8, 2007, Brian Philips, General Manager of CMT, the leading cable channel for country music fans, spoke with Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate regarding CMT's longstanding opposition to government-mandated a la carte cable in all its manifestations.

Specifically, Mr. Philips discussed the FCC's recent request for comment on the practice of tying or bundling in the video programming marketplace (FCC 07-169). The Commission has proposed to ban such arrangements between programmers and their distributors and mandate the wholesale sale of programming on an a la carte basis. Mr. Philips explained that the arguments against this most recent iteration of government-mandated a la carte remain the same – it will increase marketing and administrative costs, shrink viewership and advertising revenue, and lead to higher prices and fewer channel choices for consumers.

Mr. Philips also explained that bundles are essential to guaranteeing carriage for new and niche channels and these channels would suffer most, undermining the FCC's touchstone goal of promoting program diversity.

The above-referenced proceeding is not restricted, and notice of these meetings is made pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules.

Sincerely,

cc: Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, FCC  
Amy Blankenship, FCC