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March 9, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
 Secretary
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street SW
 Washington, DC 20554

Re: CSR-8126, ACM /et al, / MB Docket No. 09-13

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We urge the FCC to grant this Petition to protect public, education and government (PEG) Access, the local, noncommercial channels that are expressly devoted to serving the public. In Manhattan, Manhattan Neighborhood Network uses these services as an important means to reach viewers in need of our services. This petition details ways in which a national cable provider, AT&T's U-Verse system, places PEG channels at a disadvantage with inferior technology in comparison to other channels on its system. This discrimination against local, non-profit media providers challenges local democracy and the First Amendment. It's also contrary to what Congress intended in passing the 1984 Cable Act. For too many grassroots organizations, this will mean losing the connection with local viewers that enables groups to extend services to the community via television.

Community programming needs to be easily accessible to viewers not placed in an inferior format that viewers will have difficulty finding and using. Fair policies and regulations must prevent discriminatory practices like this, particularly given the vast resources and capabilities of large companies like AT&T.

We urge you to act in the public interest by decisively granting this petition.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer
 Gale A. Brewer

Enclosure

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