

LUIS V. GUTIERREZ
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
4TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
2266 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6263

DISTRICT OFFICES
8458 WEST NORTH AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60647
(773) 384-1855

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1304

COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY
POLICY, TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY
CHAIRMAN
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND
CONSUMER CREDIT
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE:
IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, REFUGEES,
BORDER SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

June 16, 2009

Acting Chairman Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

BY Email

MB
Access
PV
ME
9/19

Re: Petitions for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Public, Educational and Government Access Channels, MB Docket No. 09-13, CSR-8126 (ACM *et al.*), CRS-8127 (City of Lansing, MI), and CSR-8128 (City of Dearborn, MI *et al.*)

Dear Commissioners:

I urge the Commission to grant the three above-mentioned petitions to safeguard public, educational and governmental (PEG) access channels. At a recent hearing, my colleague, Congressman José Serrano, urged the FCC to take immediate action on this matter. I agree that a timely decision needs to be made to help protect PEG channels, which are an important and distinct source of community-based, local information in my district, Illinois' 4th Congressional District.

My district's majority Latino population benefits greatly from the variety of services provided by Chicago Access Network Television (CAN TV). Among the many programs that continue to be of great value to my constituents is *Perspectivas Latinas*, a bi-lingual weekly program that informs the community about healthcare resources, job opportunities, immigration issues and housing services. Particularly important to the large immigrant population in Chicago is CAN TV's live, weekly call-in program, "Immigration Issues," which connects viewers with experts from Chicago Legal Clinic, University of Illinois Immigration, and Erie Neighborhood House. These groups assist viewers with questions about housing, employment, legal rights, counseling and other services.

CAN TV also makes it possible for health care providers to reach out to my constituents who may otherwise not have easy access to health care or education services. Nurses from my district who work with AIDS Care and Project VIDA have hosted live call-in programs on CAN TV to educate viewers about HIV/AIDS prevention, risk reduction and treatment. Latinos Progresando and National Latino Education Institute use CAN TV to reach viewers in need of their services. Youth education is a key component of CAN TV, which partners with community media groups in my district such as Street Level Youth Media, Pros Arts Studio, and Community Television Network. These groups train and facilitate the creation of programming by and for youth.

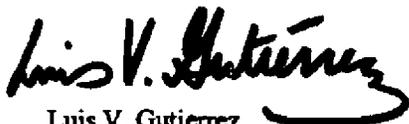
No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

24 JUN 2009 RCVD

Any system that renders PEG channels inaccessible to viewers and strips those channels of closed captioning and second audio programming, unfairly dismisses the needs of a rapidly growing minority community. The lack of basic program information and inability to channel surf or use a programmed recording device also puts PEG viewers at a disadvantage.

I strongly believe that PEG programmers provide a valuable service to the local community. The FCC should use great discretion and caution in order to prevent PEG channels from being disadvantaged by discriminatory treatment. I strongly urge the Commission to grant all three petitions as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luis V. Gutierrez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

cc: Rep. Jose Serrano
Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary