



February 24, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ex Parte Notice

Re: *Allvid (set-top-box)*, Dockets CS 97-80 and PP 00-67

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, February 24, 2011, the undersigned, on behalf of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (“NTCA”), together with Steve Fravel from NTCA, Steve Pastorkovich from the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) and Steve Kraskin on behalf of the Rural Independent Competitive Alliance (RICA) (collectively, the Associations) met with William Lake, Michelle Carey, Nancy Murphy, Mary Beth Murphy, Steven Broeckaert, Allison Noplokh and Lyle Elder from the Media Bureau to discuss set top boxes.

The Associations expressed support for the right of customers to use whatever equipment they choose in their homes. At the same time, there are concerns about the ability of small service providers to meet potential consumer expectations regarding the ability of these service providers to support disparate hardware. The Associations feel that marketplace demands and standards bodies are better suited than regulations to determine what features and capabilities should be included in retail video access devices. The Associations recommended that the Commission thoroughly consider alternatives for small providers during this proceeding’s Regulatory Flexibility Analysis that would account for small providers’ lack of personnel and resources.

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Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 351-2020 or jcanfield@ntca.org.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jill Canfield
Jill Canfield
Director, Legal & Industry

JMC:rhb

cc: William Lake
Steve Broeckaert
Allison Neplokh
Lyle Elder
Mary Beth Murphy
Nancy Murphy
Michelle Carey