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EX PARTE

July 26, 2013

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

Re: Closed Captioning of Video Programming, MB Docket No. 05-231

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 24, 2013, Jill Lockett, Senior Vice President, Program Network Policy; Andy Scott, Vice President, Engineering, Science & Technology; and I attended a meeting to discuss closed captioning with the following participants: Andrew Phillips (NAD); Claude Stout and Jim House (TDI); Jill Toschi (NCI); Ann Bobeck and Kelly Williams (NAB); Michael Nilsson (Wiltshire & Grannis); Stacy Fuller (DirecTV); Hadass Kogan (DISH Network); Lise Hamlin (HLAA); Larry Goldberg (WGBH National Center for Accessible Media); Blake Reid (University of Colorado); and Sarah Whitesell, Kris Monteith, Brendan Murray, Greg Hlibok, Suzanne Rosen Singleton, Cynthia Bryant, Elaine Gardner, Karen Peltz Strauss and Eliot Greenwald, all of the Federal Communications Commission.

Consistent with our written comments in the above-captioned proceeding, NCTA reiterated the industry's commitment to serving its deaf and hard-of-hearing customers with high-quality captions. NCTA discussed changes that have occurred since the Commission opened its docket on caption quality standards. Cable customers have access to significantly more captioned programming, both on television and online, and also can readily provide feedback to cable operators and programmers about caption quality problems, if any. NCTA explained that programmer and operator members reported receiving relatively few complaints from consumers about caption quality, and that they were unaware of any systemic problems in this area.

NCTA discussed how the thousands of individual cable systems located throughout the country receive captioned programming from hundreds of program networks (in addition to captioned programming from local broadcast stations). Cable operators perform spot checks to ensure that captioning is being passed through on the programming that is being provided to customers and in some cases have deployed equipment that can detect the presence or absence of captioning. However, requiring cable operators to monitor caption quality on an ongoing basis

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on the hundreds of networks carried at each of these headends would be a significant and costly undertaking and should not be required.

NCTA also discussed the continuing need for certain categorical exemptions. In particular, NCTA described how local cable news operations rely on electronic newsroom technique captioning to provide captioned material, and how a requirement to provide real-time captioning for these 24/7 news operations would impose significant new burdens. NCTA also discussed the need for the new network exemption, which provides start-up networks with a period of time after launch before they are required to incur the same captioning obligations as more established cable networks.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Diane B. Burstein

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cc: S. Whitesell
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