



August 5, 2013

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Accessibility of User Interfaces, and Video Programming Guides and Menus, MB Docket No. 12-108, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 13-77)

Dear Commissioners:

Dakota Media Access (DMA) files this letter in response to the above referenced rulemaking proceeding (NPRM) in support of the comments filed by the Alliance for Community Media; the Alliance for Communications Democracy; Montgomery County, Maryland; and the National Association of Counties, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors & U.S. Conference of Mayors.

DMA administers two local, noncommercial public, educational and government (PEG) access channels in Bismarck, North Dakota. Our volunteer producers and staff produce an average of 3,500 new, original hours of programming each year for cablecast to 29,000 local subscriber households.

We carry many programs on our channel(s) which are closed-captioned including Armed Services programming, Democracy Now and Recovery Network. Unfortunately, our multichannel video programming distributor (MVPD), Midcontinent Communications, does not provide a label or symbol indicating that these programs have closed captions.

This level of information is inadequate to meet the accessibility goals of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA). Viewers cannot determine from the MVPD's video programming guide whether our programs are accessible. Thus, viewers with visual or auditory disabilities cannot make meaningful video program choices.

We urge the Commission to adopt rules that would require video programming guides and menus which display channel and program information include, for all channels, high level channel and program descriptions and titles, as well as a symbol identifying the programs with accessibility options (captioning and video description).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Mary Van Sickle
Executive Director
Dakota Media Access
Bismarck, ND