



**HARDIN COUNTY EDUCATIONAL
AND COMMUNITY TELEVISION
& EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER**

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Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Consideration 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:

I appreciate this commission accepting responses in this matter. As a director of an Educational and Government access channel that provides coverage of a five county area in the heart of Kentucky, I am writing to encourage the commission to require that MVPDs must include all public, educational and government access channels which cable providers carry in the requirements for the following:

1. Onscreen channel guide indicators for closed-captioning programs for the deaf and hearing-impaired,
2. Audio descriptions of those programs in the onscreen channel guides for the visually impaired.

I fully support the comments filed previously by the Alliance for Community Media; the Alliance for Communications Democracy; Montgomery County, Maryland; the National Association of Counties, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the U. S. Conference of Mayors, and Chicago Access Network Television.

As a PEG producer/director since 1984, I have actively advocated the support of the worthwhile mission of local origination video. Unlike commercial broadcast and fee based channels, PEG (or EG) providers give voice at the local level. Hardin County Educational and Community Television has been the local EG provider since 1979. HCEC-TV originated as an instructional program within the Hardin County School system in 1973. While teaching video/television production, the instruction became more than just an instructional exercise in the classroom for professional development shortly after its inception utilizing the local cable provider to showcase school activities. Within a short period of time, the local governments and community organizations saw the impact and power of this communications tool. Now HCEC-TV provides 35 hours of original programming weekly, covering everything from city and county government meetings, elections, forums, non-profit community events, and of course, an entire slate of school events (board meetings, sporting events, graduations, etc). HCEC-TV's programming is carried by three cable providers, over a five county viewing area available to over 150,000 residents. Fort Knox, Kentucky is within our service area too, providing a voice for the military too.

Although the telecommunications' companies provide the access, they do nothing to promote or denote the programming on their TV guide listing. HCEC-TV publishes its weekly schedule on the web and local newspapers. I have asked regularly to have programming information to be made available on the TV Guide listing, but have been refused because the companies are not required to do so. That is why I feel that PEG (EG) channels should be included in these MVPD accessibility requirements. My staff field questions daily about when and what programming is airing that week. The local newspapers carry the listing at no cost, so I would like to see the cable providers be required to do the same on the TV Guide listing. Because of Fort Knox, this area has become the home of many retired military and civil service workers, which also means that some are hearing and vision impaired. Many actively crave local news and information on government proceedings, school and community events.

HCEC-TV doesn't have the funding to provide closed-captioning on programming, so having the channel listing visible can still alert the hearing impaired of the content. For those who are visually impaired, audible descriptions of the programs would be wonderful on the TV Guide Listing channel,

Again, my goal besides educating future video producers is to educate and inform my viewing area with the most current news and features and events. So please support the PEG channels having the same value given to the for profit companies. Include PEG in MVPD requirements

Sincerely,

Gina Ryan, Director of Hardin County Educational and Community Television

