

March 21, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

RE: COMMENTS ON NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
IN THE MATTER OF VIDEO DESCRIPTION OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING

MM Docket No. 99-339

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed visual description rule (MM Docket No. 99-339); although the concern for blind people's access to visual information is laudable, I feel that the proposed rule shows misplaced priorities. I feel that the use of SAP for the audio presentation of visual material should be applied to safety warnings, health information, news, and other information rather than for the description of information.

I am a blind person with residual eyesight. When watching the television, I often leap out of my chair when the television is showing weather crawlers, news captions, and sports scores. Often I miss the information as it crawls by on the screen. Other times, I see the information, but am not sure that I have seen it correctly. I have given up on looking at stock quote information that is presented by some cable networks since I know that the attempt will be futile.

I believe that the FCC's misunderstanding of the needs of blind people in this regard arises from the fact that blind people are not consulted in the earliest stages of rule making. I would hope that this unfortunate situation could be remedied in the future.

Once again, thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely

Shawn Jacobson
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