Tuesday, May 23, 2023

By Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Ex Parte Presentation, MB Docket No. 12-107 – Letter of Support

Dear Ms. Dortch,

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, the Society of Broadcast Engineers, Inc. (“SBE”) respectfully submits this letter for inclusion in the record of the above-referenced proceeding.

SBE wishes to express support for the working group proposed by the National Association of Broadcasters (“NAB”) in its Reply Comments filed in regard to the Petition for Extension of Waiver in MB Docket No. 12-107.¹ SBE filed Comments in this proceeding, supporting the Petition,² but did not have the opportunity to address the suggestion of a working group because it was first raised in NAB’s Reply Comments.

The NAB Reply’s recommendation to convene a working group of stakeholders to address this issue would allow all interested parties to come together to seek real-world solutions to the challenge of providing audio description of non-textual images, and ensure that critical emergency information is accurately and effectively conveyed to

¹ Reply Comments of the National Association of Broadcasters, Accessible Emergency Information, and Apparatus Requirements for Emergency Information and Video Description: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, MB Docket 12-107 (May 1, 2023) (“NAB Reply”).

all television consumers. Aside from working to establish a viable technical path forward for compliance, such a working group could facilitate discussion as to the most effective ways to describe emergencies for members of the disability community. Consequently, broadcasters would welcome the opportunity to sit down with the FCC and members of the disability community to hear any concerns and collaborate on a path forward on multiple aspects of the rule.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this matter. SBE is glad to provide whatever support it can to aid the FCC in these efforts.

Respectfully,

THE SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS, INC.

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SBE President

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