



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

September 15, 2009

Society of Broadcast Engineers
4466 N. John Young Parkway
Orlando, FL 32804

Dear Frank Tobert,

On June 12, 2009, our nation experienced one of the greatest accomplishments in broadcasting technology's history. On that date, broadcast television as we knew it changed forever when we completed the full-power transition to digital television.

I know that over the past year – and perhaps longer - you have spent countless hours preparing for this transition. It is with much gratitude that I write today to thank you for your efforts in making the transition a success. I know that you have contributed and sacrificed in numerous ways, and I want you to know that your contributions are recognized and much appreciated.

This transition was the result of years of planning and preparation by countless individuals across many industries. But none of these people is more closely linked to the transition's success than you, the men and women of the broadcast industry. You took the steps necessary to inform and educate the viewing public about the impending transition and its import. Not only were you front-line resource for consumers, but you worked with FCC staff on the ground with a sense of purpose and cooperation that was unprecedented. Together, we were able to successfully move this country into the next wave of broadcast television. Millions of Americans are now experiencing the many benefits of digital television broadcasting, thanks largely to your efforts.

I hope that the close of this successful transition will not mark the end of our work together. Our communications infrastructure is the foundation upon which our economy and society rest, and it has never been more important that we work together to unleash its potential. Again, thank you for all of your help and hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Lake".

William T. Lake, Chief, Media Bureau
National DTV Transition Coordinator