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PBS

October 12, 2004

Margaret Miller  
Dow, Lohnes & Albertson  
1200 New Hampshire Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20036-6802

Dear Ms. Miller:

PBS enthusiastically supports the construction and licensing by the Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Network (RMPBN) of new digital television broadcast station KRMU-DT I Durango, Colorado. The new non-commercial public digital television station will serve 56,020 over-the-air viewers in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. This area, which is nearly 200 miles from the nearest full power public television station, is underserved by traditional broadcast media and will greatly benefit by the availability of a local public television broadcast facility.

PBS has consistently encouraged and has an interest in the construction of public television stations in communities that do not receive the broadcast signal of a local PBS station. Durango, Colorado is such a community. PBS has been aware that RMPBN obtained an FCC construction permit on October 2, 2001 for construction of a new analog public television station. PBS was fully supportive of RMPBN's decision to seek to modify the construction permit to construct a digital broadcast station, forgoing the construction of an analog station. RMPBN will not only provide a much needed service to the people of the Durango area, but will also do so with greater efficiency by the construction of a digital broadcast facility. The digital facility will be able to provide multiple digital broadcast services as soon as it begins operation and will greatly assist the viewers in the Durango area in the transition to digital television.

PBS and its DTV Strategic Services Group, under my direction, has been assisting RMPBN in its role as administrator for the Corporation for Public Broadcast Digital Distribution Fund and Digital Universal Service Fund. Both funds are federally funded grant programs, mandated by Congress to assist and hasten public television stations with their digital television transition. RMPBN has been a recipient of four grants through these funds including two to construct digital television transmitters for RMPBN stations KTSC and KRMJ, one for the enhancement of RMPBN's digital multicast master control center and one to assist in the construction of KRMU-DT. Once grants are announced, the grant program requires a thorough process to fulfill the administrative requirements prior to grant contract signing, as was the case with KRMU. This process, while assuring adherence to federal requirements, often adds time to the project construction timeline, as was the case with KRMU.

PBS has looked forward to the completion of the KRMU-DT construction and licensing, satisfying the purpose of the grant program to drive the digital transition to a speedy conclusion and provide new digital services to communities in the United States.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Caleca  
Senior Vice President  
Technology & Operations



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