HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON
25TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0525

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2351 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDNG
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225–1956

WEB SITE
www.house.gov/mckeon/

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY OFFICE
23929 W. VALENCIA BLVD., SUITE 410
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91355
(661) 254–2111

ANTELOPE VALLEY OFFICE
1008 WEST AVENUE M–14, SUITE E–1
PALMDALE, CA 93551
(661) 274–9688

SAN BERNARDINO, INYO,
AND MONO COUNTIES
(800) 565–4333

November 21, 2003

Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission recently investigated and subsequently ruled on the use of the "F-word" by U2 lead singer, Bono, on national television during the Golden Globe Awards, which aired earlier this year. I also understand that the FCC found that Bono was not in violation of the indecency rules as mandated. I want to take this opportunity to express my extreme disappointment in the recent decision.

When our country was founded, the people were given great liberties in the new republic. Of these privileges, we received the freedoms of religion, press and speech. Nevertheless, these rights should not be abused and should be extended only as far as to ensure that they protect the interest of our nation's children. A civilized society, while providing such great freedoms, must also set a higher standard of decent behavior. It is vitally important that our children are not exposed to such vulgar, uncouth language while they watch television in the home. We must teach them the value of proper manners, so that they learn, at a young age, the correct ways and language to treat their fellow citizens, when they become adults.

The Commission's decision sets a horrible precedent for our children to follow. I urge you and the Commissioners to reconsider this decision and contemplate the unintended consequences associated with any loosening of rules, regulations and laws, which maintain our society's standards for decency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Buck

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

cc: FCC Commissioners
Parties of Record

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