

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER
JAMES H. QUELLO

August 9, 1989

Robert A. Estrada
Special Assistant to the President
Associate Director for
Presidential Personnel
Office of Presidential Personnel
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Estrada,

I am writing to recommend Dr. Brian Fontes, my special assistant the past five years, for the upcoming democratic slot on the FCC. He is superbly qualified through experience, temperament and accomplishment.

Brian is highly respected in all industry circles and by the FCC staff. He is a former university professor -- open minded, knowledgeable in all phases of telecommunications regulations, with a practical rather than academic approach to FCC problems. If Commission appointment were filled by competitive examinations, Brian would surely be in the upper 2%!

He is a super intelligent disciple of my rather practical regulatory public interest philosophy which has found a sufficient measure of acceptance in the White House, Congress and in the industries to keep me here for over 15 years. I value his advice and suggestions. As you know, I was appointed three times by Republican presidents -- the first time by President Nixon through old friend Jerry Ford, and twice by President Reagan.

Brian led the fight against UHF/land mobile sharing and won. He was instrumental in bringing to light the data that derailed attempts to reallocate broadcast spectrum to nonbroadcast services. His efforts in this matter have been recognized by broadcasters.

At the same time he was thwarting the reallocation of broadcast spectrum, Brian successfully argued for developing the high definition television proceeding. He recommended that I oppose a definitive spectrum allocation plan for high definition television prior to the testing of the proposed system.

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His recommendation was later adopted by the High Definition Advisory Committee. He worked very hard to defeat the proposal that would have required broadcasters to buy spectrum needed for high definition television transmission.

In general policy areas, Brian has played a key role in formulating my positions in mass media and land mobile issues. He has worked hard to defeat efforts to permit satellite feeds to broadcast translators that would result in translators competing with existing radio licensees. He seeks practical solutions to the controversial issues of must carry and channel repositioning and is fully aware of the devaluating effects of cable channel shifting on a broadcaster's rate card. Brian was one of my key staffers under my chairmanship on the Temporary Commission on Alternative Financing for Public Broadcasting which concluded that public broadcasters should not sell commercial advertising.

In addition to Dr. Fontes' recognized expertise in broadcast matters, he is well known and respected in the mobile communications industry. He served as a delegate to the 1987 World Administrative Radio Conference on Mobile Communications in Geneva. He is the point man in my office for new telecommunication technologies and he has forged new inroads for spectrum efficient technologies in a variety of services. He has been particularly diligent in assuring that Commission policies do not increase levels of interference to licensed services. He constantly presses for tougher enforcement policies to assure that existing licensees are not harmed by illegal operations. Brian knows the Commission processes, public policy, the industries we regulate and how to get things done!

He is a conservative to moderate democrat who supports President Bush and who agrees with his policies. He is an executive of unquestioned integrity and high moral standards. Both the public and industries would be well served by his appointment.

Please call or write if further information is required.

Sincerely,

James H. Quello
James H. Quello

A copy of letter to Robert Estrada was sent to the following:

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