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November 19, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: IB Docket No. 98-172; RM 9005; RM 9118

Dear Ms. Salas:

On October 29, 1998, several companies representing both satellite and terrestrial fixed service interests filed a Motion for Extension of Pleading Cycle ("Motion") in the above-captioned proceeding. The purpose of the requested extension, which was granted on November 2, 1998, was to facilitate the completion of discussions among the members of the 18 GHz Joint Working Group ("JWG") regarding an alternative band segmentation plan that could be submitted to the Commission on a consensus basis. Motion at 2. The members of the JWG came together to discuss the issues raised in this proceeding because of a concern that the difficulty of sharing between satellite and terrestrial services could frustrate the business plans of all parties seeking to use this part of the spectrum.

The members of the JWG used the additional time to thoroughly discuss the impact of the band plan set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. However, the Group was not able at this time to achieve consensus for an alternative band plan. The members of JWG have decided to continue the discussions in January after all comments have been filed.

The members of the JWG commend the Commission for granting an extension of time to enable the parties to consider these complex issues.

Sincerely,

William R. Lye /gjw

William R. Lye
Chair

cc: Mr. Thomas Tycz
Ms. Cassandra Thomas
Ms. Fern Jarmulnek
Mr. Charles Magnuson
Ms. Diane Garfield

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