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INDEPENDENT CABLE & TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

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April 1, 1999

Ms. Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: ExParte Presentation in 18 GHz Proceeding, IB Docket No. 98-172, RM-9005, RM-9118

Dear Ms. Salas:

On March 31, 1999, the undersigned submitted the enclosed letter to Chairman Kennard with copies to the listed individuals regarding the referenced Docket No. 98-172.

The letter describes the formation of a group which met initially to discuss issues raised in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the progress which was made developing an alternative band segmentation plan and that ultimately the group was unable to reach a consensus prior to the deadline for filing comments. We urge in our letter that the Chairman encourage this group to reconvene and continue its discussions toward a recommendation for resolving the issues presented by the NPRM.

Sincerely,

William J. Burhop
Executive Director

Enclosures

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March 31, 1999

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W. – Room 8B201
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: 18 GHz Proceeding, IB Docket No. 98-172

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you are aware, the 18 GHz Joint Working Group ("JWG"), whose members include several companies representing both satellite and terrestrial fixed service interests, came together to discuss issues raised in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM"). This group met initially under the joint sponsorship of the National Spectrum Managers Association (NSMA) and TIA, then subsequently as an independent ad hoc group. The co-conveners of the JWG were Mr. Bill Lye and Mr. Phil Salas. At its last session, the JWG made considerable progress toward developing an alternative band segmentation plan that could be submitted to the Commission to resolve the troublesome defects in the proposal advanced in the rule making. However, the JWG was not able to achieve unanimity for this alternative band plan prior to the deadline for filing comments, and the JWG has not met since to further discuss an appropriate 18 GHz band plan.

We ask that you urge the JWG to reconvene, to include all interested parties and to push hard toward a recommendation for resolving the issues presented by the NPRM. The members of the JWG share a common concern that the difficulty of sharing between satellite and terrestrial services could frustrate the business plans of all parties seeking to

use the 18 GHz band. A recommendation emerging from this process would be valuable to the industry and the Commission. We would very much appreciate your efforts in rejuvenating the JWG process.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Burhop

William Burhop
Executive Director

cc: Susan Fox, Esquire/Ari Fitzgerald, Esquire
Paul E. Misener, Esquire
Anita Wallgren, Esquire
Mr. Daniel Connors
Karen Gulick, Esquire
Peter A. Tenhula, Esquire
Mr. Peter Pappas
Mr. Richard B. Engelman
Ms. Deborah Lathen/Eloise Gore, Esquire
IB Docket No. 98-172, RM-9005, RM-9118

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