



James Sprunt Community College

P. O. Box 398, Kenansville, NC 28349 • Telephone (910) 296-2400 • FAX (910) 296-1636

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AUG 17 2000

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

FROM: Mary Wood, President *MW*

SUBJECT: Opposition to Petition for Rulemaking by Satellite Industry Association, RM-9911

DATE: August 15, 2000

This memorandum is to express strong opposition to the Petition for Rulemaking by the Satellite Industry Association (SIA) regarding the reassignment of ITFS/MMDS band to Mobile Satellite Service.

Community colleges within the North Carolina Community College System have worked diligently for more than five years to develop a statewide ITFS network, resolving issues of mutual exclusivity and other licensing issues. These ITFS channels are being integrated with commercial channels to form a broadband wireless network throughout North Carolina.

The ITFS channels on the frequency bands in SIA's petition are an important part of this statewide network. Reassignment of these channels would effectively kill the possibilities for a statewide broadband wireless network in North Carolina. No private telecommunications company could make a successful business case without these channels.

We feel that SIA's petition is nothing less than a raid on the ITFS channels we have worked for five years to secure.

The ITFS channels located on the frequency bands proposed in SIA's petition are a crucial part of North Carolina's educational network. We feel strongly that a favorable view toward SIA's petition runs directly counter to the FCC's rural initiatives and to Chairman Kennard's stance on fair competition and his own comments that a three-way "race" is important to avoid the emergence of monopolies in broadband.

ITFS channels have been set aside for educational use for many years. We urge the Commission not to rule favorably on SIA's petition. The results of five years of work by North Carolina's community colleges will be nullified by a favorable ruling, virtually removing any future chance for development of a statewide educational network.

Thank you for your consideration of the negative and far-reaching impact of this petition by the Satellite Industry Association. Please contact me (910-296-2414) if you need further information.

mws

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EDGECOMBE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



TELEPHONE (252) 823-5166
2009 WEST WILSON STREET
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27886

TELEPHONE (252) 446-0436
225 TARBORO STREET
ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27801

DR. T.S. FLEMING
CHAIRMAN

JONATHAN K. FELTON
VICE CHAIRMAN

DR. HARTWELL H. FULLER
PRESIDENT

August 14, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

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REGARDING: Opposition to Petition for Rulemaking by Satellite Industry Association, RM-9911

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing you to oppose the Satellite Industry Association's petition to have the top and bottom of the ITFS/MMDS band reassigned to Mobile Satellite Service.

The loss of this bandwidth could be devastating, not only to Edgecombe Community College, but to Eastern North Carolina. This area is largely rural, with a significant number of Hispanics and other minorities who will benefit more from the College's full use of this bandwidth than from the Mobile Satellite Industry. The Concept of "equal access" for all our citizens has been a priority for the North Carolina Community College System, and for the FCC. Together we can make this a reality.

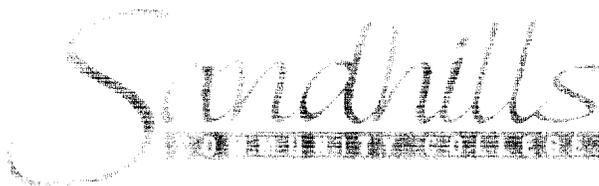
North Carolina's commitment to the education of all its citizens is evidenced by its existing educational television system, and its information superhighway. It is imperative that the State have the capacity to progress to the 21st century with a full complement of ITFS Channels. In North Carolina and across the nation, community colleges have spent the past five years resolving mutual exclusivity and other issues related to the licensing process. Many community colleges have only recently been issued licenses and it would be unfair for the Commission to take them back.

Allowing the Satellite Industry Association to raid the ITFS channels at this time greatly weaken, if not destroy, the long-term educational benefit for which these channels have been set aside for so many years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hartwell H. Fuller
President

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Office of the President

August 14, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Opposition to Petition for Rulemaking by Satellite Industry Association, RM-9911

Dear Ms. Salas:

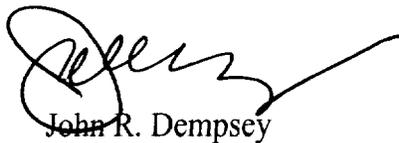
It is with great concern that I write you to oppose the recent petition by the Satellite Industry Association to have the top and bottom of the ITSF/MMDS band reassigned to Mobile Satellite Service.

As you may appreciate, community colleges like mine have just been engaged in a time-consuming and complex procedure to resolve such licensing issues as mutual exclusivity as we explore broadband connectivity to the Internet via ITFS channels historically set aside for educational use. ITFS channels are currently being integrated with commercial channels to form a broadband wireless network throughout North Carolina, and these channels are a critically important part of my state's educational network.

Not only would acceptance of this SIA petition unfairly negate existing licenses issued to many community colleges, but such acceptance would ignore the hundreds of existing licensees and the extensive channel operations already in existence.

Your assistance in forestalling this effort on the part of the SIA to absorb channels badly needed for both classroom and distance education will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



John R. Dempsey
President

c: Senator Jesse Helms
Senator John Edwards
Representative Howard Coble

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