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August 28, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Amendment of the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations to  
Designate the 2500-2520/2670-2690 Frequency Bands for the  
Mobile-Satellite Service, RM-9911, DA 00-1673

Dear Ms. Salas:

ICO Services Limited ("ICO") supports the Petition for Rulemaking ("Petition") of the Satellite Industry Association ("SIA") to amend the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations to allocate the 2500-2520 MHz (space-to-earth) and 2670-2690 MHz (earth-to-space) frequency bands for the mobile satellite service ("MSS").<sup>1</sup>

As SIA correctly points out, MSS service is the most promising technology for bringing voice and data service - including Internet access service - to rural, remote and underserved areas of the United States.<sup>2</sup> The Commission's recent Report concerning deployment of advanced technologies lends support to this assessment, pointing out that "satellite-based last mile facilities may provide consumers and small businesses in geographically remote and sparsely populated areas with access to high-speed services that would not otherwise be available."<sup>3</sup> Service to such areas, with particular emphasis

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<sup>1</sup> Petition for Rulemaking of Satellite Industry Association, *Amendment of the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocation to Designate the 2500-2520/2670-2690 MHz Frequency Bands for the Mobile-Satellite Service*, RM-9911 (April 28, 2000); FCC Public Notice, *Comment Invited on Third Generation Wireless/IMT 2000 Petitions*, DA 00-1673 (July 28, 2000).

<sup>2</sup> Petition at 9-10.

<sup>3</sup> *Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunication Act of 1996*, Second Report, CC Docket No. 98-146 at ¶ 56 (Aug. 21, 2000).

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on tribal lands, also is central to ICO's business plan for 2 GHz operation and would be a strong reason for making more spectrum available for future MSS applications.

As SIA also observes, the 2.5 GHz spectrum is the only internationally-allocated spectrum between 1 and 3 GHz that has not been adopted into the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations, and the only such spectrum in which no U.S. satellite licenses have been requested or granted. Because MSS services typically have a global footprint, it is essential that all MSS spectrum allocated internationally to MSS be available for that use in the United States.

Finally, amending the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations to allocate this 2.5 GHz spectrum to MSS would be consistent with the decisions taken at the World Radiocommunication Conference ("WRC") 2000 and will not preclude the use of these bands for the terrestrial deployment of International Mobile Telecommunications ("IMT") 2000. As Resolution COM5/26 of the Final Acts of WRC 2000 states, these bands "may be used by administrations wishing to implement the satellite component of IMT 2000; however, depending on market developments, it may be possible in the longer term for . . . [these bands] to be used by the terrestrial component of IMT-2000."<sup>4</sup> Including these frequencies in the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations will not reduce the FCC's flexibility to determine those uses that will best serve the public interest, but will clear the way for the FCC to license satellite or terrestrial facilities in these bands at the appropriate time.

In order to ensure the availability of spectrum for future deployment of services to remote and underserved communities, the Commission should grant SIA's Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Lawrence H. Williams  
Lawrence H. Williams  
ICO-Teledesic Global Limited

cc: Rodney Small

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<sup>4</sup> *Final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference, Istanbul, 2000*, Resolution COM5/26.