



**RANDOLPH COMMUNITY COLLEGE** President's Office

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August 22, 2000

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

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

Dear Secretary Salas:

In North Carolina and many other areas across the nation, community colleges have spent the past five years resolving mutual exclusivity and other issues related to the Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) licensing process. Recently, many community colleges received licenses from the Federal Communications Commission. In North Carolina where some of these licenses were issued, community colleges have agreed to work together to provide statewide access to education and training.

Although ITFS channels have been set aside for educational purposes for many years, educators are just now realizing the potential of broadband connectivity to the internet. Randolph Community College's need for such connectivity is immediate, and by using this technology we will broaden educational opportunities for our entire service area. All of our customers will benefit, including community service workers, the business and industry community, and students who are striving to achieve individual goals.

The Satellite Industry Association's (SIA) petition threatens the educational opportunities we hope to offer our students. The SIA's proposal will jeopardize the ITFS channels located on frequency bands that are an important part of the educational network in North Carolina. In its petition, the SIA has ignored the hundreds of existing licensees and the existing operations on the channels. Revocation of those currently holding licenses would be unfair to the colleges and to the students and communities they serve.

Randolph Community College fully opposes the SIA's petition, and we hope that the FCC will carefully consider the full impact of this petition.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Heckman, Ed.D.  
President

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