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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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to CO
TC

RM-9911

August 9, 2000

The Honorable Bob Ethridge
1641 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ethridge:

RE: Opposition to Petition for Rulemaking by Satellite Industry Association, RM-911

Johnston Community College is a two-year college in Smithfield, North Carolina, and we like to think that we make a difference in the lives of the citizens of our county. One of the ways that we try to improve the lives of our citizens is to provide a broad range of educational services: we are currently pursuing an ITFS license to assist us in better serving our citizens.

Along with a number of other community colleges and private colleges in North Carolina, we have spent the last five years making a considerable expenditure of time and money to ensure that we can benefit from the use of our ITFS frequencies. Our ITFS channels are being integrated with commercial channels to form a broadband wireless network throughout the state of North Carolina, which will not only give us educational television channels, but many, many additional monetary and resource benefits.

However, we are now threatened by the Satellite Industry Association's petition to re-assign certain ITFS/MMDS frequencies. The removal of these frequencies from the ITFS spectrum would significantly diminish the business case of our corporate partners, and would effectively kill our proposed agreement with our corporate sponsors. Also, it is unfair to revoke a license after it has already been issued, which is the case with many of the colleges in our state.

We ask that you deny the petition from the Satellite Industry Association, and allow us to maintain licensure of the ITFS frequencies. This would ensure that the citizens of Johnston County would enjoy the benefits from this project. We thank you in advance for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Reichard, Ed.D.
President

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