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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Amendment of Part 2 of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum Below 3 GHz for Mobile and Fixed Services to Support the Introduction of New Advanced Wireless Services, including Third Generation Wireless Systems	)	ET Docket No. 00-258
	)	
Petition for Rulemaking of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association Concerning Implementation of WRC-2000; Review of Spectrum and Regulatory Requirements for IMT-2000	)	RM-9920
	)	
Amendment of the U.S. Table of Frequency Allocations to Designate the 2500-2520/2670-2690 MHz Frequency Banks for the Mobile-Satellite Service	)	RM-9911

TO: The Commission

COMMENTS OF BURLINGTON COUNTY COLLEGE

1. Burlington County College ("BCC") hereby submits its Comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order ("NPRM"), FCC 00-455, released January 5, 2001, 66 Fed. Reg. 7438 (January 23, 2001), in the above-captioned proceeding. In that proceeding the Commission is considering frequency allocations to accommodate the introduction of new advanced mobile and fixed services, sometimes referred to as "Third Generation" or "3G" mobile services. Among the frequencies under consideration for reallocation for such services is the 2500-

2690 MHz ban currently allocated for and used by stations in, inter alia, the Instruction Television Fixed Service ("ITFS").

2. BCC is the licensee of ITFS Station WNC-310, and the permittee of ITFS Stations WNC-308 and WNC-309. In obtaining and maintaining these authorizations and in constructing WNC-310, BCC has expended a significant amount of money for equipment, construction, installation and representation. BCC believes that the distance learning opportunities presented by the ITFS are substantial, and to that end BCC has directed substantial resources, including staff, equipment and funds, to assuring its ability to provide such opportunities to students throughout central New Jersey. Certainly the conventional over-the-air capabilities of ITFS are invaluable in that regard; the potential for two-way high speed data services for schools, faculty and students are even more so.

3. BCC strongly opposes the reallocation of the 2500-2690 MHz bands for 3G services for a number of reasons. First, BCC and other ITFS licensees have been using that band for years, providing useful educational services to students, teachers and the public in general. BCC understands that there are more than 1,200 licensees across the country holding more than 2,000 licenses, serving K-12 schools, universities, community colleges, and governmental agencies and institutions. The educational services provided to hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of students through the operation of those stations must not be abandoned simply to accommodate more elaborate cellular telephone

service.

4. This is especially so in view of the fact that existing ITFS operations reflect substantial investment of scarce educational funding and other resources. The proposed reallocation creates a real risk that that investment will be completely lost, with no possibility of recoupment. BCC believes that it would be completely unacceptable governmental policy to force educational institutions already subject to severe budgetary limitations simply to sacrifice previously-made educational investments long before the full range of educational benefits to be derived from those investments has been realized. The public will suffer doubly from such an approach: students and the public will lose access to valuable educational services, and educational institutions such as BCC will have irretrivably lost valuable, and scarce, resources.

5. The unacceptability of such an approach is underscored by the fact that technological innovations are making possible extensive new uses for ITFS stations, such as the provision of high-speed, two-way wireless data transmission services which can accommodate broadband internet access. That is, ITFS can provide educational licensees with a means of helping bridge the "digital divide" by facilitating access to high-speed internet connections in rural areas, inner-city neighborhoods, and other underserved communities within reach of their ITFS signals. The signal transmission and reception range of stations in the 2500-2690 MHz band are peculiarly well-suited for precisely that beneficial

mission. Reallocation of that spectrum would defeat that mission.

6. BCC does not oppose the general purpose of the instant proceeding, i.e., to accommodate 3G services. However, BCC strongly opposes any reallocation of the 2500-2690 MHz band from ITFS for that purpose. BCC submits that the Commission can and should locate 3G mobile services in some other available spectrum, and leave unaffected currently outstanding ITFS authorizations and the well-established operations of ITFS licensees providing useful educational and other services to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Harry F. Cole
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