



February 16, 2001

Office of the Clerk, ET Docket No. 00-258

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Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference: ET Docket No. 00-258, FCC 00-455

Dear Secretary Salas:

As the desires for the use of third generation wireless (3G) technology expands in the cellular phone industry, it has been brought to my attention that legislation is being considered to allow access by these companies to the dedicated instructional television fixed service (ITFS) spectrum. Although I applaud the directive of the FCC to remain globally competitive in the Internet market, it is apparent that we will continue the "digital divide" if the educational access to the spectrum becomes limited or more expensive.

Specifically, this dedicated spectrum has been reserved for educational television. In our case this has allowed programming from four-year universities to be available to our students as well as serving high schools in our districts with interactive television classroom experiences.

As we continue to expand our distance education opportunities for students, it is obvious that we need additional access to low-cost, broadband services for video conferencing and multi-media applications for distance learning. We need to be able to expand, not worry about the competition for our dedicated spectrum from commercial services, if we are going to accomplish the educational goals to serve rural and other students unable to attend traditional classes. Limiting our access, or increasing the cost of services for educational uses, will not solve the "digital divide" that we find so alarming in our nation.

As a president of only one college, but representing thousands of students being served in the state of Oregon through the ITFS, please do not recommend that this spectrum be turned over to big business. Please reserve this air space for the use of educational services that can help us deliver knowledge to students who could not otherwise gain expertise. Please do not dilute the use of ITFS as we now know it by designating the 2500-2690 MHz band for 3G use.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter that is so important to the current, and future, delivery of educational services to students across the nation.

Sincerely,

John S. Keyser  
President

c: Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Gordon Smith,  
Representative Earl Blumenauer,  
Representative Darlene Hooley

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