



KERN EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSORTIUM

1300 17th Street - CITY CENTRE, Bakersfield, CA 93301-4533 (661) 636-4629

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Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 29554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Federal Communication Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ET Docket No. 00-258-, Rm-9920 and 9911) on 3G spectrum allocations poses significant negative impacts to our students. If implemented, the FCC proposal will seriously curtail our ability to transmit educational programming and bring money into our classrooms through public-private partnerships.

In Kern County the ITFS bandwidth is used to transmit educational programming to urban and rural schools and homes throughout Kern County. In fact, without the ITFS bandwidth our efforts to deliver instruction to students and adults in rural communities via distance education would be seriously hampered.

We broadcast educational programming 24-hours a day, seven days a week throughout Kern County, an area that is larger than the state of Massachusetts. Our geography is so diverse that it takes some residents more than three hours to reach urban areas where classroom instruction is offered. Distance learning, through the ITFS channels, does much to bridge this educational gap between rural and urban communities.

Working with our educational partners -- Cal State Bakersfield and Kern Community College District -- we have constructed a microwave network to extend the instructional benefit that ITFS provides.

You are no doubt aware that recent rule changes opened the ITFS spectrum to permit two-way video and broadband data services, including high-speed Internet access. This aspect provides virtually unlimited potential to provide, through ITFS, affordable access to the broadband Internet for student and adult learning in the classroom, at home or on-the-job.

Reallocating any part of the ITFS spectrum by the FCC will negatively affect our ability to deliver instructional programming to students and the community. We ask that you express our concerns to the FCC and persuade the commissioners to consider other alternatives. In an era of budget surpluses, it seems that any one-time income the FCC might receive would be negatively offset by hundreds of thousands of students being denied educational and career advancement opportunities that ITFS provides. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Reider

Kern County Superintendent of Schools

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