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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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February 13, 2001

Diane Cornell Associate Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Room 3 C220
Federal Communications Comm
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Re: **"Opposition to 3-G Raid on Education Initiative with ITFS Frequencies"**

Dear Senator Faircloth:

We need your help! Over five years ago, Pamlico Community College became one of the charter members of a shared vision. "***To have a statewide wireless network that would provide broadband two-way connectivity.***" Throughout the five years a wonderful thing has happened. The individual college efforts and strong leadership of the North Carolina Community College System and Wireless One of North Carolina have evolved into The NCCCS Wireless Technology Consortium. However, our efforts have not met without opposition by outside forces. On many occasions the "winds of opposition have tried to dump the wind from our sails" but we haven't capsized yet! This is **why we need your help!**

We are faced once again with a threat to sink a statewide collaboration and shared strategic initiative to provide state-of-the-art technology for educational life-long- learning for rural communities like Pamlico County and the State of North Carolina as a whole. Mobile/handheld devices referred to as 3G are a product that commercial vendors are trying to appeal to FCC to give them the very ITFS frequencies and bandwidth that we so badly need to better serve our students and citizens of Pamlico County. All the countless hours WONC, NCCCS leadership and participating colleges have spent in preparing license applications, locating transmitters, resolving the mutually exclusive application, solving interference problems or securing joint collaborative agreements without objection. Some of the community colleges have put their applications on hold in an effort to support the NCCCS Wireless Technology Consortium. We need to KEEP the MMDS and ITFS channels, as this is the backbone to streamline the technical network strategy for regional sharing of resources and to "*bridge the digital divide.*"

North Carolina is so fortunate to have great leadership in the formation of the statewide consortium aimed at creating the seamless web of lifelong learning. Public schools, community colleges and public universities have a great deal of local autonomy, which allows them to respond to the needs of their communities. Although this approach is problematic, the end results are far reaching in an effort to expand the state-of-the art technology to the business of educating our children and adults.

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The ITFS is just the next step in closing the digital divide. North Carolina is made up of twelve television markets and eight secondary markets which include rural areas like Pamlico County, which is still struggling in an uncertain economic base to be a part of the wonderful benefits the wireless technology can bring to our community and lifelong learning efforts. If we lose any of the conjoined MMDS and ITFS channels all the work we have put into this project over the last five years will be lost. So many goals and objectives of the educational community would have been in vain. We have a commercial partner willing to work with us as they know how valuable the ITFS channels are and are eager be a part of the project since they will also benefit.

We have demonstrated over five years how working together has provided the Wireless Technology Consortium project with solidarity and enthusiasm. We just can't lose the MMDS and ITFS bandwidth. All the work with the public schools, community colleges, the public universities and our commercial partner will have been in vain. Our vision to provide our community with the technology resources so many other areas of the state enjoy will indeed sink into the deepest holes of the ocean.

Pamlico Community College has a local vision on how we can utilize the wireless technology:

Services we can provide:

- Electronic mail for on-campus, off-campus, and web-based information access.
- "Ask the Librarian" and connect with all agencies in the county.
- "Talk to a Counselor" for students services.
- Video audio content and videoconferencing for "real time" instruction.
- High-resolution video.
- Inter-campus connectivity and inter-campus voice over IP.
- Connectivity for the "new" Pamlico Community College Bayboro Center where Huskins/dual enrollment classes are being offered.
- Interactive video and video classes using for information highway.

Applications we can use with the wireless technology:
Curriculum courses and Continuing Education courses
High School Huskins/dual enrollment
Transfer degree programs with universities
Professional staff development
Administrative procedures through computerized work form cutting costs.
Government, including corrections, health care, emergency management training.
Teacher certification training.

You can help us to fight the raid on the educational strategy to "***bridge the digital divide***" with ITFS wireless technology by "taking the wind of the 3-G threat and not allow them to raid this very valuable ITFS bandwidth from education providers.

Respectfully,

Marion Altman

Dr. Marion Altman, President