

Twin Cities Campus

Office of the President

202 Morrill Hall
100 Church Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0110
612-626-1616
Fax: 612-625-3875

MAR 21 11:17

February 21, 2001

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAR -1 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman Powell
Commissioner Furchgott-Roth
Commissioner Ness
Commissioner Tristani
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: FCC 00-455, ET Docket No. 00-258, RM-9920 and 9911

Dear Commissioners:

I write this letter to express grave concern about changes to the ITFS spectrum proposed in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on 3G spectrum allocations that was released January 5, 2001. Preservation of the full ITFS band is absolutely critical if wireless broadband is to become a reality not only for our students, but also for our entire community.

ITFS is an extremely valuable and vital part of our distance education program at the University of Minnesota. For over twenty-nine years, the Regents of the University of Minnesota have held the licenses' for eight ITFS channels. UNITE (UNiversity-Industry-Television for Education) Instructional Television, a distance education program within the Institute of Technology, uses and maintains these channels to provide graduate level engineering courses and degrees to engineering and science professionals at industrial sites throughout the Minneapolis-St. Paul and Rochester, Minnesota communities. Currently UNITE has thirty-eight members, including 3M Company, IBM Corporation, CPI Guidant, Unisys, Medtronic, Mayo Clinic, Honeywell, ADC Telecommunications, Alliant Tech Systems, Sims Deltec, TSI, Inc. and Lucent, to mention a few. Each year approximately thirty-five students obtain their Master's Degree attending one to several of the typically fifty-five courses offered live each semester. Annually, on average, 700 professionals register for courses through the UNITE program. We will soon be delivering a host of distance learning services and applications to students' desktops, including high speed Internet access and two-way interactive broadcasts.

If the FCC reallocates any part of the ITFS spectrum for 3G mobile device services, the capacity, usefulness and value of ITFS would be significantly

[Signature]

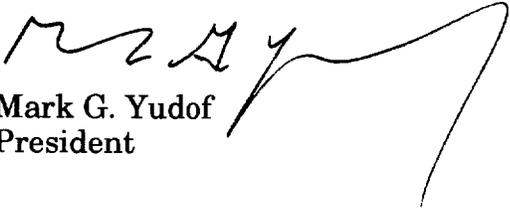


diminished. Even if only part of the spectrum is taken away, many educational institutions would lose their ITFS service altogether, while others would face new equipment costs, service disruption and cutbacks, lower quality service and signal interference. In either case, the ITFS community would be incapable of supporting advanced wireless services and promoting the development of broadband services to the educational community and to underserved communities nationwide.

If the ITFS spectrum is compromised in any way, these public benefits will be lost. On behalf of the University of Minnesota, I am writing to urge that you maintain the integrity of our spectrum and keep this tremendous educational resource alive and well.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Mark G. Yudof
President

MGY:cn

c: John Engelen, Director, Federal Relations, University of Minnesota