

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, B-238
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5813
(561) 434-8712 FAX (561) 434-8908

DR. H. BENJAMIN MARLIN
SUPERINTENDENT

00-258

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Adam
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regard

RECEIVED
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HAROLD FURCHTGOTT
ORIGINAL

February 5, 2001

Commissioner Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC 00-45 ET 5 Docket No. 00-258/RM-9920 and 9911

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Commissioner Furchgott-Roth:

I am concerned about the future of the ITFS spectrum, which is under assault in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on 3G spectrum allocations that was released January 5, 2001. ITFS is an important part of our educational program at the School District of Palm Beach County. Moreover, 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.

As you are aware, recent rule changes have opened the ITFS spectrum to the implementation of wireless two-way video and broadband data services, including high speed Internet access. The educational power of ITFS has been expanded under the digital two-way rules to provide advanced learning services, interactive video, and wireless broadband Internet. As distance learning becomes more robust and interactive, ITFS offers educational institutions throughout the country an affordable high-speed on-ramp to the broadband Internet for students and adult learners in the classroom, at home and at work. This goal was recently cited as the first priority for policymakers by the bipartisan Congressional Web-Based Education Commission. In addition, fixed wireless broadband promises to bring a competitor to DSL and cable modem technologies to our community, making broadband access not only more widely available but also more affordable.

ITFS does not only benefit schools, students and adult learners, however. In addition to the broad range of community programming currently carried on ITFS spectrum, the recent two-way order has filled a void where legislation and regulation have failed to produce affordable, ubiquitous broadband Internet access for Americans. Working in conjunction with wireless communications companies, ITFS spectrum is being used to bring broadband to underserved populations in rural, urban and otherwise isolated communities nationwide. ITFS licensees are therefore serving the educational community as they help the nation and the Commission to bridge the Digital Divide.

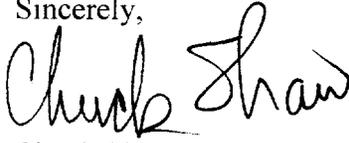
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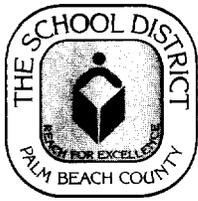
Even if only part of the spectrum is taken away, many educational institutions would lose their ITFS service altogether, while others would face new equipment costs, service disruption and cutbacks, lower quality of service and signal interference. In either scenario, the ITFS community would be incapable 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. We at the School District of Palm Beach County hope that you will support us in maintaining the integrity of our spectrum and in keeping this tremendous educational resource alive and strong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Shaw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" and "S".

Chuck Shaw
Director



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12TH STREET, S.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

