



STATE BOARD FOR
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

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February 7, 2001

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Commissioner Harold W. Furchtgott-Rott
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Commissioner Furchtgott-Rott:

I am writing to express my concern about the future of the Instructional Television Fixed Services (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 Mississippi EDNET Institute. Moreover, preservation of the full ITFS band is absolutely critical if wireless broadband is to become a reality for our students and for the entire Mississippi community.

We have great expectations for our use of EDNET in Mississippi. As distance learning becomes more 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.

ITFS does not only benefit schools, students and adult learners, however. 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.

If the Commission reallocates any part of the ITFS spectrum for 3G mobile device services, the capacity, usefulness, and value of ITFS would be significantly 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 of service and signal interference.

If the ITFS spectrum is compromised in any way, these public benefits will be lost. The Mississippi EDNET Institute request that you will support us in maintaining the integrity of our spectrum and in keeping this tremendous educational resource alive and strong.

Sincerely,

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Henry B. Hudspeth, Board Member, State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
Third Congressional District



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