

JOHNNY ISAKSON
6TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS
21ST CENTURY COMPETITIVENESS

**TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

AVIATION
HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1006

March 14, 2001

Docket No. 00258

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Commissioner Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Commissioner Powell:

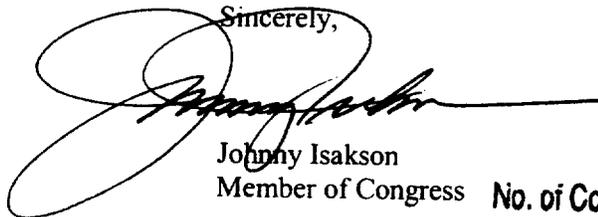
On behalf of educational institutions in the State of Georgia and throughout the country, I am writing you today with much concern over the 2500-2690 MHz portion of the spectrum. The proposal to reallocate this portion of the spectrum for third generation (3G) mobile telephone services will strip our nation's educational community of a powerful and irreplaceable medium.

Instructional Fixed Television Service (ITFS) has had use of the 2500-2690 MHz portion of the spectrum for over 35 years. Over 1,200 school districts, colleges, universities and other educational organizations hold ITFS licenses. Two of the major universities in my state, Georgia Tech and Georgia State University, have been making use of this spectrum in partnership with BellSouth Entertainment to deliver educational services to schools and homes in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Similar to these local services, most ITFS licenses have traditionally provided one-way video broadcasting, but recent FCC rule changes have expanded the educational power of ITFS. Today, advanced learning services, interactive video, and wireless broadband Internet access to students and adult learners in classrooms, homes and workplaces can become a reality.

As Vice-Chairman of the Congressional Web-Based Education Commission, I am committed to making powerful new Internet resources, especially broad band access, widely and equitably available for all learners. Although web-based education is in its earliest phase, it holds extraordinary promise. I, along with countless other policymakers, educators and students, would hate to see that promise thwarted.

While you consider the allocation of spectrum for the 3G technology, I request that you maintain the 2500-2690 MHz portion of the spectrum for the use of ITFS licenses and their commercial partners. I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson
Member of Congress

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cc: Stephen R. Portch, Chancellor
University System of Georgia

Dr. Patti S. Abraham, Professor
Mississippi State University

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