ORIGINAL

Santa Ana Unified School District

Al Mijares, Ph.D., Superintendent

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04/03/2001

Chairman Powell
Commissioner Furchgott-Roth
Commissioner Ness
Commissioner Tristani
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

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

March 29, 2001

Dear Commissioners:

It is extremely alarming that the ITFS educational broadcast spectrum is threatened as proposed 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 in the ***Santa Ana Unified School District*** and has been utilized daily for almost thirty years to enhance student learning . Now as we enter a new era in which the ITFS band may be used to provide our schools access to the Internet, it is absolutely critical that we preserve the full spectrum for this purpose.

Since 1973, ITFS has been used to delivery basic and supplementary instruction to students in grades K through 12. With nearly 60,000 students, Santa Ana is the 7th largest public school district in California. Our student population is 96% Hispanic, approximately 2/3 of these have limited or non-existent English skills. The visual aspect of classroom television in helping our student understand concepts in invaluable to our teachers. ITFS programming is closely correlated to science, health and social studies textbook materials. Language arts and English Language Development along with education in the arts is enriched and enhanced with ITFS programming.

We currently operate six ITFS channels continuously throughout the school year and accommodate varying bell schedules and year-round school tracks. Santa Ana Unified School District is leasing excess spectrum capacity to MCI WorldCom Wireless. Because of the value of this spectrum to entrepreneurs in wireless technology, this partnership been of significant financial benefit to the District. Using these ITFS channels, expert teachers and motivating videos have enhanced the education of almost *one million students* since its implementation in 1973. Our District has invested heavily in hardware to make this valuable resource readily accessible to all students and their students at our 55 schools and other District facilities. The Orange County Department of Education also utilizes one of the District channels to delivery in service programs to schools throughout Orange County.

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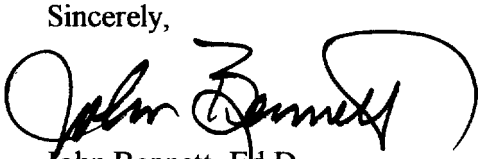
Should the Commission reassign any portion of the ITFS spectrum for 3G mobile device services, educational institutions could either lose their ITFS service altogether or encounter new equipment costs and signal interference. In either case, what board of education would invest precious educational dollars in a technology that could be so easily and swiftly eradicated?

If the ITFS spectrum is compromised in any way, confidence in its educational value will be lost. We in the ***Santa Ana Unified School District*** hope that you will support us in maintaining the integrity of our spectrum and in keeping this tremendous educational resource alive and strong.

Sincerely,



John Bennett, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent
Operations Division

Cc: Dr. Al Mijares, Superintendent
Mr. Bob Reed, Instructional Television

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