EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Equity and Excellence in Education

OaklandSchools

2100 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328-2735
Telephone: 248.209.2000
Facsimile: 248.209.2021
http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us

ORIGINAL

00-258

May 8, 2001

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

RECEIVED

MAY 30 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear FCC Commissioners,

I write to you about an issue of tremendous importance to our community, the ITFS (Instructional Television Fixed Service) spectrum. ITFS is both an important part of our educational program at Oakland Schools (a partner in the Community Telecommunications Network) and critical if wireless broadband is to become a reality for our students and our entire community.

ITFS is a distance learning technology that has provided teacher training and classroom instruction to millions of students across the United States for more than 35 years. Nationally, nearly 1300 ITFS licensees serve thousands of public and parochial schools, colleges, and universities, providing greater access to professional development, more efficient delivery of curriculum, and various other educational opportunities.

This valuable service has recently come under assault from the wireless telephone industry. Third generation (3G) cell phone service providers are seeking more digital spectrum and have specifically targeted the 2.5hz band, presently occupied by ITFS. Indeed, 3G providers have formally petitioned the FCC to take ITFS away from educators in order to accommodate the wireless industry's needs. In our community the ITFS spectrum is being used to provide instructional resources and professional development – both inservice- and preservice-training - to educators in the region.

The FCC's Final Report on Instructional Fixed Television Services, issued March 30, 2001, supports what licensees have been saying all along – **relocating all or part of ITFS would be a grave mistake**. Doing so would disrupt existing ITFS services, be extremely difficult if not impossible from a

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List A B C D E

technical perspective, and carry heavy financial costs. Moreover, relocation would hamper existing efforts to extend digital opportunity. The ITFS community—in conjunction with their MMDS partners—is on the brink of expanding its capabilities to provide broadband wireless Internet access and high-speed data transmissions in addition to traditional video programming. This new frontier not only promises inexpensive high-speed broadband access for educational institutions, but also **high-speed access for thousands of underserved communities, including those bypassed by DSL and cable modem service, across the United States.**

Given the considerable benefits of ITFS and the your agency's findings, we urge you to stand up for the students and teachers and not relocate any part of the ITFS spectrum. We at the INSERT NAME OF LICENSEE hope that you will continue to support us in our ongoing educational mission by maintaining the integrity of our spectrum.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janet M. Van Dam, Director
New Media