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Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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June 20, 2001 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As Members of the South Florida Congressional Delegation representing several of the nation's largest school districts, including Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach County Public Schools, we are concerned about a proposed rulemaking that is currently pending before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

We have been advised that the recent FCC report regarding reallocation of spectrum to develop a third generation wireless service is most favorable to entities such as school districts that provide educational television services. The report suggested that clearing the 2500-2690 MHZ Band would be both expensive and extremely difficult. Further justification of this complexity is likely exemplified by the FCC's denial of a petition filed by the Satellite Industry Association (SIA). As the FCC recognizes the potentially detrimental long-term impacts that will be realized when moving in the direction of spectrum reallocation we are hopeful that Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) petition will be denied as well and that the ability to provide efficient instructional television service will not be jeopardized.

As an example of current usage by school districts, Miami-Dade County Public Schools currently operates two cable channels that serve 204 elementary schools, 12 primary learning centers, 14 charter schools, 53 middle schools, 33 high schools, 15 alternative education schools, 5 specialized education centers and 26 adult education schools. The 10,000 hours of educational and community service programming per year impacts 360,000 students and 140,000 adults daily.

As the agency approaches its deadline for determining the reallocation of spectrum on the 2500-2690 MHZ Band, we request that you not interrupt the spectrum currently allocated for instructional television. It is imperative that we preserve the valuable educational and community service programming that stations operated by school districts are able to offer. We urge the FCC to explore the myriad alternative solutions that exist.

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Chairman Powell

Providing an alternative to relinquishing the 2500-2690MHz spectrum bands is in the best public interest. We appreciate your consideration of the needs of school districts we represent and other educational institutions and private broadcast entities, as this potentially contentious spectrum allocation issue is resolved.

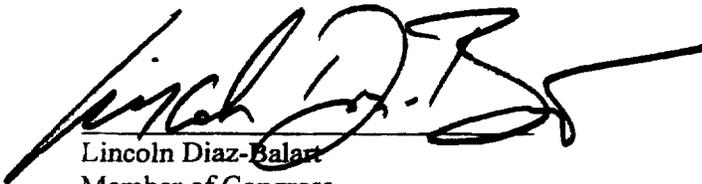
Sincerely,



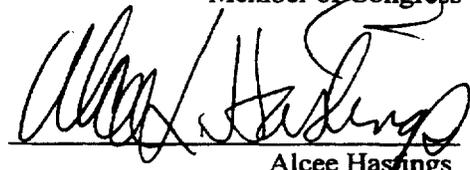
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Peter Deutsch
Member of Congress



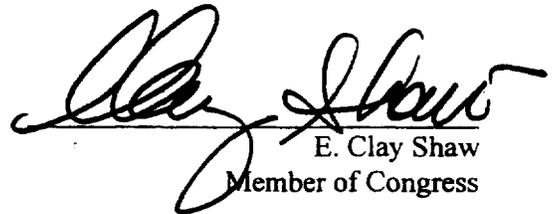
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