

ORIGINAL
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MESQUITE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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JAMES TERRY, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT

August 21, 2001

00-258

The Honorable Michael Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Mesquite Independent School District, licensee for KHS-78, this letter is regarding an issue of importance to our schools and community: the ITFS (Instructional Television Fixed Services) spectrum. Specifically, we ask you to take action to support those educational organizations across the country which utilize the ITFS spectrum to reach into school classrooms and provide televised instruction.

ITFS is a distance learning technology that has provided teacher training and classroom instruction to millions of students across the United States, and has been a part of our instructional program for more than 35 years. ITFS licensees serve thousands of public and parochial schools, colleges, and universities, providing greater access to professional development, expanded curricular opportunities and various other educational offerings. In our community, ITFS allows us a path into our citizens' homes (via our local cable provider who programs the signal as part of the city's PEG requirement.) This permits us to provide patrons with information about their school district and expanded programming in the evenings – on subjects such as parenting, continuing education, GED assistance, lifetime activities, and cultural interests.

Additionally, ITFS networks are a tremendous resource to the educational community. Recent technological improvements permit upgraded ITFS systems to provide two-way, high speed broadband Internet, digital content delivery, and the potential for 10:1 or better video compression – offering the educational licensee a path to expanded capacity and innovative technological integration in the classroom.

Given the enormous benefit ITFS provides the educational community, and the commission's own findings in March that its spectrum is not well suited to development of 3G services, I urge you and the other commissioners to take action and remove the ITFS spectrum from the list of candidates for 3G service spectrum immediately.

Respectfully,



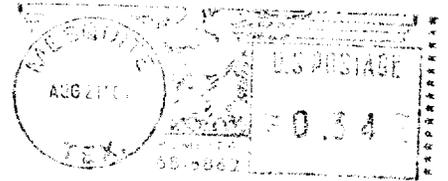
James Terry, Ed.D.

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"Where Children are at the Heart of Every Decision"

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MESQUITE, TEXAS
AUG 24 2001
C. Powell

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