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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1005

December 6, 2001

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

IB DKT. 01-185

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room 8A201
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Michael:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is reviewing the potential ancillary terrestrial use as a complement of 2 GHz mobile satellite service (MSS). Allowing this use may provide another means of offering broadband services. I am supportive of ensuring high speed Internet access to all areas of America and of exploring all the potential methods of doing so.

Additionally, I believe the recent tragic events have underscored the important role that satellites can play to ensure communication capabilities. The potential ability of MSS to provide Internet service to Americans allows for one additional communication medium in the case of an emergency. I have also been informed that our military forces, who often operate in rural areas, may be able to use MSS for their Internet connection.

This proposal does not require the sharing of spectrum. In addition, terrestrial service would be allowed only after commercial operation of the satellite service and in a manner consistent with prior Commission decisions on combined use systems.

I urge the Commission to give appropriate attention to this proposal as it considers options to provide high speed service to all of America.

Most respectfully,

Max Cleland
Max Cleland
United States Senator

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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 11, 2002

IB Dkt. 01-185

The Honorable Max Cleland
United States Senate
461 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cleland:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the Commission's rulemaking on proposals to bring flexibility to the delivery of Mobile Satellite Services ("MSS") systems. We have placed your letter in the public record of this rulemaking proceeding.

I can assure you that I understand the importance of resolving the issues raised in the rulemaking and will make every effort to ensure that a decision in this matter is reached as soon as possible. Comments were due on October 22, 2001, with reply comments due on November 5, 2001. The Commission staff currently is reviewing and analyzing the considerable volume of comments from the industry and the public on the Commission's proposals. Once they have completed their review, the Commission will work in earnest to reach an appropriate resolution.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Powell", written over a horizontal line.

Michael K. Powell
Chairman