

I would like to comment that I strongly oppose any move to licence the ITFS/MDS band in the 2.5GHz range to any private interests. I feel that maintaing and expanding the unlicenced frequencies open to wireless computer networking, and unlicenced public use in general, is an extremely important goal that should not be compromised in favor of private interests. While I understand that there is great competition among users of the radio spectrum, I feel that it is important that portions of the spectrum be maintained and safeguarded for public use in unlicenced installations. 1

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Cellular telephone companies constitute a strong special interest that stands to gain greatly from any licencing of previously unlicenced spectrum. Furthermore, it is my opinions that many of the users of the unlicenced wireless spectrum who gain the most from its use are private individuals who do not constitute a strong and unified voice to argue against the special interests of the cellular industry. In light of these two facts, I feel that it is particularly important that the FCC safeguard and hopefully expand the spectrum available to the public in unlicenced form. 1

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I say that such "small" users gain more from the use of unlicenced spectrum than do larger, more politically powerful interests because small users' direct use of wireless communication technology would not otherwise be feasible at all. Unlicenced radio spectrum permits home users to maintain private networks and allows elementary school classrooms to be easily connected to the Internet. Wired solutions in these circumstances would oftern be prohibitively expensive or difficult to develop for such home and school users. People who would otherwise be unable to gain network connectivity are empowered by the highly decentralized current use of the 2.4-5 GHz bands. A particuar example of an highly sucessful community-building effort achieved solely through the easy availibility of unlicenced spectrum is the SFLan group. (<http://www.archive.org/web/sflan.php>) This group has built a freely accessibly, entirely community supported Internet Service Provider, enabling those within range of their access points to gain easy and non-commercial access to the internet.

In light of the "democratizing" effect unlicenced spectrum has had on networking in general, and Internet connectivity in particular, I feel that to licence portions of the unlicenced 2.5GHz spectrum to commerical interests, and thereby restricting the resources currently available to unlicenced users, would harm the public interest. 1

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I personally regularly use the 2.4GHz bands for wireless 802.11b network access, and only see myself using wireless technology more and more heavily in the future. Such access provides to me personally an excellent resource when I'm not sitting at my desk. I currently utilize my organization's wireless infrastructure for connectivity, and intend to set up home wireless connectivity in the near future. 1

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I would like to emphasize, however, that I am in no way opposed to or upset by commercial, licenced use of large portions of the radio spectrum. Such licencing obviously plays an integral role in today's society, enabling companies to provide inoovative and usefully services to end users. However, I feel that both licenced and unlicenced spectrum have an important role in our communities, and furthermore that due to the decentralized nature of its primary

user base, the unfortunate trend is to marginalize the interests of unlicensed spectrum users. I recognize that many hardware vendors and other companies champion unlicensed spectrum, but I feel that the utility of this resource benefits far more people, most of them extremely quiet and politically voiceless relative to corporate interests that desire radio spectrum, than are represented by these corporate supporters of unlicensed spectrum. 1

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In summary, I would like to voice my opinion strongly against licensing any of the currently unlicensed 2.4-5GHz spectrum, and encourage the FCC to consider expanding the radio bands allotted for unlicensed use. Thank you for your consideration.