



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

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May 7, 2004

Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 03-66

Dear Chairman Powell:

For over 35 years, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has used Instructional Television Fixed Service ("ITFS") channels in the 2.5 GHz band to transmit instructional programming to students in our schools. The allocation of ITFS spectrum for educational purposes was a wise and forward-thinking move on the part of the FCC in the 1960's. The Archdiocese is proud to have been among the pioneers in the ITFS band.

Today, the Archdiocese operates over 250 Catholic schools in three southern California counties covering approximately 8000 square miles, and uses ITFS to support the educational needs of an ethnically diverse and economically deprived student population. As the cost of education continues to increase, the resources we can provide to schools through our ITFS system are essential to keeping the quality of education high, and ensuring that every child has access to the resources necessary to excel.

ITFS is the only spectrum specifically allocated to formal education. I am writing to request your support in protecting this vital educational asset. As your agency updates the rules for ITFS to more effectively support a range of new broadband services, **I urge you to reject proposals to allow any ITFS spectrum to be sold to commercial entities, or to reduce the total amount of spectrum allocated to ITFS.** A transfer of control of the spectrum to commercial interests would be a terrible blow to education.

The possibilities for future development of educational services in the ITFS band are exciting, and we plan to use the spectrum to the fullest extent in the years ahead. I hope that you will support our efforts to keep this valuable educational resource from being licensed for commercial use.

Thanking you for your consideration of this important matter, and with every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

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His Eminence  
Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles