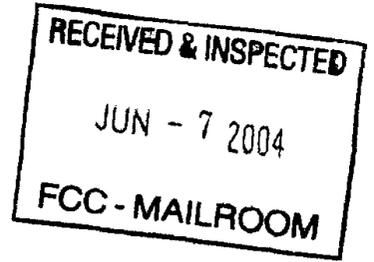


DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

May 28, 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

For many years **Missouri Southern State College/University** has used Instructional Television Fixed Service ("ITFS") channels in the 2.5 GHz band to transmit instructional programming to students and citizens of Missouri. The advent of new technologies, the prospect of a new band plan and rule changes requested by the ITFS community promise new digital educational services for education of the citizens of Missouri.

We are **extremely concerned** about a proposal from the Wireless Bureau that has been circulated for rushed FCC consideration. It is our understanding that adoption would eliminate the eligibility restrictions on ITFS spectrum, and would reduce the amount of spectrum held by each ITFS licensee in order to accommodate new commercial users in the band. This proposal is detrimental to future educational developments.

This educational asset must be protected. ITFS is the only spectrum specifically allocated to support formal education. The FCC had promised to protect this spectrum three years ago. As the FCC updates the technical rules for ITFS to more effectively support a range of new broadband services, **we urge rejection of misguided proposals that would allow the ITFS spectrum to be licensed to commercial entities, or that would reduce in any respect the total amount of spectrum presently allocated to ITFS.** If necessary, you must delay consideration of the proposal to a later meeting, so legitimate educational concerns can be heard.

The possibilities for future development of educational services in the ITFS band are exciting, and Missouri Southern State College/University plans continued full use of the spectrum in the years ahead. I hope that you will support our efforts to keep this valuable educational resource. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Earney".

Steve Earney  
Asst. Vice President – Information Services

cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

• 3950 E. Newman Road • Joplin, Missouri 64801-1595 • Phone: 417.625.9383 • FAX: 417.659.4350

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

013