



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
H. Martin Lancaster, President

August 8, 2000

MEMORANDUM

IMPORTANT
August 28 Deadline

TO: Community College Presidents

FROM: Parks Todd, Director
Telecommunication Services

SUBJECT: ITFS Channels

The Satellite Industry Association (SIA) is conducting a raid on the ITFS channels that we have fought for five years to secure. The Association has filed a petition with the FCC to have what amounts to the top and bottom of the ITFS/MMDS band reassigned to Mobile Satellite Service. If this happens, it will kill our statewide ITFS network because no private sector telecommunications company, WONC in our case, could make a business case without the channels for which the Association is attempting to secure.

All community colleges, including those that will not have a license or that will not be a part of a consortium, stand to gain in some fashion from the broadband Internet connectivity that ITFS offers. All community colleges also stand to lose if the statewide network is killed by the Association's petition.

We cannot allow this raid on the public airwaves to succeed. Indeed, we have a fiduciary responsibility to protect them. Please make your opposition known to:

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Include "regarding line" that reads: "Opposition to Petition for Rulemaking by Satellite Industry Association, RM-9911."

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The FCC must receive letters no later than August 28.

Please also write your U.S. Representative and the two Senators. Since it will take some time for them to contact the FCC by the August 28 deadline, you will need to contact them immediately.

Following are some talking points to include in your letter. It would help if you would include some information regarding what broadband Internet connectivity would mean for your college and your service area.

- ITFS channels have been set aside for educational for many years and educators are just now realizing the potential of its use as broadband connectivity to the Internet.
- In North Carolina and across the nation, community colleges have spent the past five years resolving mutual exclusivity and other issues related to the licensing process.
- Many community colleges have only recently been issued licenses and it would be unfair for the Commission to take them back.
- The ITFS channels located on the frequency bands proposed in SIA's petition are an important part of the educational network in North Carolina.
- The ITFS channels are being integrated with commercial channels to form a broadband wireless network throughout the state of North Carolina.
- SIA has totally ignored the hundreds of existing licensees and extensive existing operations on the channels.
- The FCC has made favorable rulings to help companies deploy DSL and cable modem services.
- Chairman Kennard has said that a three-way "race" is important to avoid monopolies in broadband.

PT:sh

c: President H. Martin Lancaster
Dr. Stephen C. Scott
Dr. Brenda H. Rogers
Mr. Bob Blackmun

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E-Mail