



Oct 10, 2017

Chairman Ajit Pai
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel

c/o Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ET Docket No. 14-165 and GN Docket Nos. 12-268 and 14-166 Via Electronic Filing

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioner Clyburn, Commissioner O'Rielly, Commissioner Carr, Commissioner Rosenworcel, and Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of Kirkwood Theatre Guild (KTG) from Kirkwood, MO, that provides approximately 50 performances per year to 22,000 audience members, I write with concern about available spectrum and protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

The Purpose of the Kirkwood Theatre Guild is to present theatrical productions for the enjoyment of its members and the community and to stimulate interest in the dramatic arts.

KTG was founded in 1931 and is one of the longest continuous operating community theatre groups in the greater mid-west. From its first days KTG has produced shows every year, even during the 2 World Wars.

We strongly support the Commission's proposal to expand Part 74 license eligibility to include persons and organizations that can demonstrate the need for professional, high-quality audio and have the capability of providing it through conscientious use of wireless microphones. We support and endorse the Comments filed in these dockets by The Performing Arts Wireless Microphone Working Group.

Professional performing arts organizations hold thousands of performances each year, and wireless microphones are essential to producing high-quality performances while mitigating significant public safety concerns. Professional wireless capability, with successful interference protection, is essential to our sector.

While for many years we did not use wireless microphone equipment, in 2001 we started using wireless microphones for many reasons. It has greatly added to the enjoyment of our productions by our audience members and patrons.

Presently we use from 10 to 15 wireless microphone systems, 4 wireless headset (intercom) units and a dozen wireless hearing assist systems. In about 2 years we will be moving to a new theatre with a larger seating area and will need to add more wireless microphones and hearing assist units to our inventory.

Our present microphone systems operate in the HIGH UHF 614 MHz to 698 MHz band. The hearing assist system is owed by the city of Kirkwood and we own our own receivers. It operates in the 72 to 76 MHz band.

All of our wireless microphone systems are analog and can be turned to a clear channel. The hearing assist system is also analog and runs on a fixed channel.

We own the bulk of our wireless microphone systems but on occasion do rent a couple of extra units. We expect to have at least another 6 years of life to our units before having to look at replacing them.

Along with myself we have 2 other members who are the primary audio people. Myself, I have been working in the audio field for over 50 years both professionally and in community theatre work. I have managed major audio/visual rental companies that supply equipment for meetings to Broadway Productions and everything in between. The other 2 staff that handles audio have been doing sound work with churches and theatres for over 10 years.

We are thrilled that the commission has taken this on for groups like us who love doing what we do to bring live theatre in the best way we can. Bringing the performing arts to life is a major undertaking these days especially when we deal with volunteers both on and off stage. All of our talent is volunteer for KTG and this proposal is a much-needed solution that benefits the arts community and the public as well as the many new and emerging unlicensed white space technologies. Having access to reliably available spectrum with interference protection is critical to groups like KTG as well as the small professional companies that will use similar systems.

Since I am retired from a full time job I also do some part time work with several professional groups and schools in our area and for them to also have access will do nothing but make all of the arts areas better off.

Several of the other groups in our area have already had to replace some systems in vacating the 700 MHz band. I am concerned about the cost of replacing our and other organization's sound equipment.

I am thrilled that the Commission has sought Public Comment on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

John Taylor
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