



Horizon High School

5601 E. Greenway Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

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 Horizon high school, located in Phoenix, AZ that provides approximately 15 performances per year to 5000+ audience members and education programs to 2000 students, I write with concern about available spectrum and protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

I 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.

School theatre programs and professional performing arts organizations hold thousands of performances each year, and wireless microphones are essential to producing high-quality performances while limiting significant public safety concerns. Professional wireless capability, with successful interference protection, is essential to educational theatre, both in the training and safety of students, onstage and backstage. The performing arts center at Horizon High School seats 1000 patrons. In order for students to be heard and understood clearly it is necessary to use wireless microphones. Our budget does not allow us to purchase the high end microphones need to comply with the current policy. For most of our productions we have to share one mic between two or even three performers. Audiences have become used to amplified sound as home theatre, car stereos, and public venue provide better sound system technology. Our community has come to rely on a high level of professionalism with all our our performances whether put on by a school group or a community group using our facility.



I would urge the Commission to grant a Part 74 license if an applicant can provide certification of the needed and necessary requirements to run safe wireless sound equipment.

I appreciate that the Commission has sought Public Comment on this very important issue. Educational institutions and professional performing arts organizations should have access to reliably available spectrum with interference protection. I would request that the Commission consider the burden already borne by the performing arts community in vacating the 700 MHz band. I am concerned about the cost of once again replacing my organization's sound equipment. Once that investment has been made, I would like some assurance that the system will work properly and without interference.

Besides education, school theatre programs provide demonstrable service to their individual communities, serving as a hub for entertainment, dialogue, and affirmation of student achievement and growth in important 21st century skills, such as creativity and collaboration. They also contribute to local economies in every community across this country. I respectfully endorse the Commission's proposal to expand Part 74 LPAS rules to accommodate schools and performing arts organizations that use fewer than 50 wireless microphones. The 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.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joan M. Colson, M.Ed
Theatre teacher/director
Fine Arts Department Chair
Professor of Theatre Education-GCU