



Millard West High School • 5710 S. 176th Ave. • Omaha, NE 68135-2268 • (402) 715-6000 • (Fax) 715-6060

October 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 **Millard West High School**, located in Omaha, NE, that provides approximately **12** performances per year to **300+** audience members and education programs to **hundreds of** students, I write with concern about available spectrum and protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

It is Millard West Theatre’s Belief that all students have the right to experience a theatrical production as a contributing member of the production team whether they are on stage and off. We also work to provide high quality technical opportunities to theatre students including state of the art sound and lighting equipment so our students can succeed in the world of theatre outside the community of our school.

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.

We use SURE wireless microphones in our building. We use headset microphones and wireless hand held microphones for performances and lectures and awards. I’m not an expert on our equipment, but I do know that it would be so helpful to have access to a broader range of frequencies.

I would urge the Commission to grant a Part 74 license if an applicant can provide certification of:

- A mission statement of providing performing arts to the public;



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- A history of professional-quality wireless audio presentations to audiences without interference;
- Technical guidance and frequency coordination by qualified professionals (active in audio engineering who have academic degrees or equivalent professional experience and who are familiar with radio-frequency coordination);
- A commitment to register for protection only the frequencies, times, and locations actually needed; and
- A practice of keeping logs of all wireless microphone uses, including frequencies, for all performances.

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,

Brooke Phillips