



LUMPKIN COUNTY CHARTER SYSTEM

21st Century Learning Academies



Lumpkin County High School

Principal
Billy Kirk

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Jason Lemley
Bobby Mayfield
Whitney McPherson

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 Lumpkin County High School, located in Dahlonega, Georgia, that provides approximately 5 performances per year to 1,500 audience members and education programs to 400 students, I write with concern about available spectrum and protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

Our mission at Lumpkin County Schools is to provide high quality arts programming in music, visual arts, media arts and theatre to grades K-12.

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 about 10 wireless microphones for each one of our musical performances, this is 2 of the 4 productions we do per school year. We also use them for special events and guest speakers on occasion. We own our equipment, and it is paid for using funds from ticket sales.

The Lumpkin County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or handicap/disability in educational programs, activities and employment.



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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;
- 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,

Colleen Quigley
Theatre Director/Fine Arts Department Head
Lumpkin County High School