



Lee-Davis High School 7052 Mechanicsville Pike, Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
(804) 723-2200 phone (804) 723-2202 (fax)

October 6, 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 Lee-Davis high school, located in Mechanicsville, VA, that provides approximately 3 performances per year to 2,000 audience members and education programs to 800 students, I write with concern about available spectrum and protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

The mission of our program is to both education students in theatre arts and then have them apply their training through our productions. We aim to produce family friendly, quality theatrical productions for our community.

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 are currently waiting to renovate our 60 year old auditorium and have already been informed that there is no room in the budget for any new sound equipment. We have been renting a space that allows us access to their wireless microphones and are currently using between 12-22 microphones per performance. We were not impacted by the move out of the 700Mhz band because we were not producing in our auditorium, however once the renovation is complete in 2018, we will not be able to use any of the 5 microphones that we currently own and will have to take money out of the production



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budgets to rent microphones. This additional expense will significantly impact our ability to produce 3 productions a year and could result in our having to do only one until we can build up revenue for an upgraded amplification system. Not only will limiting our production schedule diminish our ability to generate revenue, but it could also cause a drop in enrollment and possible suspension or restructuring of the theatre arts program if students don't have mainstage performance opportunities to synthesize their learning.

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. As stated above, I am concerned about the cost of once again replacing my organization's sound equipment. With our current renovation budget we will not be receiving additional county funds toward our facility for at least another 5 years. The cost of replacing our current equipment will greatly impact our revenue and ability to generate revenue as we rely on microphones to ensure that our patrons can hear our student actors. If our productions are poor in quality, we will lose our revenue source and ability to even consider purchasing or replacing current equipment. Additionally, should we be able to invest in new equipment, I would like some assurance that the system will work properly and without interference.

Sincerely,

Meg Switzer  
Drama Director  
L-DHS