



Edison Drama Club

& International Thespian Society Troupe 930

Edison High School

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Rex Stanforth

Director

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Amy Cull

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Costumes

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 Edison high school, located in Milan Ohio, that provides approximately 9 performances per year to 1,500 audience members, I write with concern about available spectrum and protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

The mission of our Drama Club is to help students work together to discover more about themselves and the world through theatre.

Because our performance and extracurricular theatre program provides the students with learning opportunities that are not available in the class room, Our program provides students with the opportunity to develop communication, time management, leadership and problem solving skills and to do this in a real world setting which provides absolute deadlines and measurable public feedback for their efforts.

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.

At present we have eight Audio Technica 2000 series belt packs (ATW-T210) and 3 Audiotechnica 3000 series belt packs (ATW-T310b). Our sound board cannot support more microphones. All operate in the 614 MHz to 698 MHz band. Our wireless system is used only for in-school performance. Although we do not have an audio technician on staff, we do have access to the services of two gentlemen in the area who have spent their careers working with audio. We also have a relationship with one theatrical company and one audio company who we can hire when necessary. We do not use wireless back stage communication but are considering upgrading our current system which is almost 30 years old.

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 the commission's willingness to study the impact of wireless regulation on small high school theatre programs like ours. With our limited budget any technology purchase is a major decision, yet even with the best coaching some form of wireless reinforcement is necessary in our auditorium. I think back to the pre-wireless days in 1972 and 73 when I directed my first musicals and remember how challenging the shows were for the students as well as how difficult it was for our audience members to hear young singers over a pit orchestra composed of young musicians in a general purpose auditorium. Wireless technology is a wonderful gift to performers as well as audience members and I appreciate your efforts to make it available and affordable.

Sincerely,
Rex Stanforth
Edison High School Drama Director