

NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP

October 12, 2017

Board of Trustees

James C. Nicola
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jeremy Blocker
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Barbara Warner Howard
CHAIR

Kelly Fowler Hunter
PRESIDENT

Allan S. Gordon
VICE CHAIR

Jack Bamberger
VICE PRESIDENT

Noel E. D. Kirnon
TREASURER

Kathleen Yoh
SECRETARY

Stephen Graham
FOUNDING TRUSTEE

Ayad Akhtar
Gail Bell
Claudia Caffuzzi
Barbara Cutler
Ellen Fleysher
Janet Harckham
Hans Humes
Susan Petersen Kennedy
Bokara Legendre
Andrea Miller
Anthony E. Napoli
Heather Randall
Scott Shay
Deborah Voigt
Brian Vollmer
Nicholas White
Doug Wright

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,

We are writing to you on behalf of New York Theatre Workshop, which offers 5 full-scale productions, countless workshop readings, off-site residencies, and educational programs each year to a diverse and adventurous group of theatergoers and artists. I write with concern about available spectrum and protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

For more than three decades, New York Theatre Workshop has provided a home to artists to hone their creative voice, a space for them to develop their projects and a platform to produce groundbreaking work. Our community is comprised of our artists, staff, Board members, and audiences.

We 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.

Professional performing arts organizations hold thousands of performances each year, and wireless microphones are essential to producing high-quality performances while mitigating significant public safety concerns. Professional wireless capability, with successful interference protection, is essential to our sector.

New York Theatre Workshop utilizes wireless devices constantly and our support of the Commission’s proposal to expand Part 74 license eligibility comes from our need for flexibility when it comes to these devices. A big part of our mission involves the support of our artists. Among those artists are countless sound

NEW YORK THEATRE WORKSHOP

Board of Trustees

James C. Nicola
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jeremy Blocker
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Barbara Warner Howard
CHAIR

Kelly Fowler Hunter
PRESIDENT

Allan S. Gordon
VICE CHAIR

Jack Bamberger
VICE PRESIDENT

Noel E. D. Kirnon
TREASURER

Kathleen Yoh
SECRETARY

Stephen Graham
FOUNDING TRUSTEE

Ayad Akhtar
Gail Bell
Claudia Caffuzzi
Barbara Cutler
Ellen Fleysher
Janet Harckham
Hans Humes
Susan Petersen Kennedy
Bokara Legendre
Andrea Miller
Anthony E. Napoli
Heather Randall
Scott Shay
Deborah Voigt
Brian Vollmer
Nicholas White
Doug Wright

designers and technicians who benefit from the ability to utilize wireless devices to their fullest extent. Our productions range in content and size, but regardless of their differences, they all require the usage of wireless devices, ranging from six wireless units in any performance to a maximum of forty units. We own a few devices as an organization but the majority of our wireless needs are satisfied through rentals. Without this flexibility, our artists, and in turn, our organization, suffer immensely.

New York Theatre Workshop has always tried to engage with technology in a way that is both beneficial to our artists and audiences. With an eye towards continuing to improve and advance our involvement with technology and the support of our community, wireless devices are essential. In any given performance, we could be using any type of wireless device, from microphones to IFBs to cure and control devices to equipment controlling devices. There is no one way in which New York Theatre Workshop utilizes this technology, which is why it is even more imperative that the expansion of eligibility for a Part 74 license pass as a proposal.

We 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.

We appreciate that the Commission has sought Public Comment on this critical issue. Without access to a reliable spectrum that provides protection from interference, our performances risk being less than professional!

A recent study commissioned by New York City Department of Cultural Affairs called, *The Social Well-Being of New York City's Neighborhoods* led by Mark J. Stern and Susan Seifert of the University of Pennsylvania, stated that, "across the board, cultural participation correlates with improved health, personal security and school effectiveness," leading to "greater measurable impact in social well-being." For this reason we respectfully endorse the Commission's proposal to expand Part



Board of Trustees

James C. Nicola
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jeremy Blocker
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Barbara Warner Howard
CHAIR

Kelly Fowler Hunter
PRESIDENT

Allan S. Gordon
VICE CHAIR

Jack Bamberger
VICE PRESIDENT

Noel E. D. Kirnon
TREASURER

Kathleen Yoh
SECRETARY

Stephen Graham
FOUNDING TRUSTEE

Ayad Akhtar
Gail Bell
Claudia Caffuzzi
Barbara Cutler
Ellen Fleischer
Janet Harckham
Hans Humes
Susan Petersen Kennedy
Bokara Legendre
Andrea Miller
Anthony E. Napoli
Heather Randall
Scott Shay
Deborah Voigt
Brian Vollmer
Nicholas White
Doug Wright

74 LPAS rules that will accommodate performing arts organizations and educational institutions that use fewer than 50 wireless microphones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim", written over a light blue horizontal line.

James C. Nicola
Artistic Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JB", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeremy Blocker
Managing Director