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March 11, 1994

*NOT ADMITTED IN D.C.

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAR 11 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

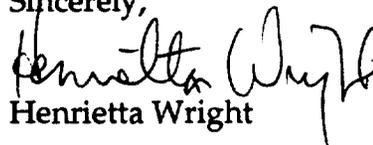
Re: GEN Docket No. 90-314
Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Mr. Caton:

On March 11, 1994, Apple Computer, Inc. ("Apple") delivered a copy of the attached letter to Chairman Reed Hundt. Two copies of this letter are hereby submitted for the public record in this proceeding, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(a)(1).

If there are any questions in this regard, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,


Henrietta Wright

cc: Chairman Reed Hundt
Karen Brinkmann, Esq.



Edward B. Stead
Vice President, General Counsel
and Secretary

March 10, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I was impressed by your recent speech to the Harvard Graduate School of Education on connecting our nation's classrooms to the Information Highway. As you know, Apple has long been a leader in bringing computers into the classroom. Although it has become popular to talk about the wonders of the NII, yours was the first piece I have read that actually gives a flavor of what this will mean to a student or a teacher.

We agree that the potential for using computers in the classroom is still largely untapped. In part, this is due to the problem of requiring students to remain tethered around a single computer or confined to a "computer lab." An even more important factor is that, as you discussed in your speech, the real gains will come when those computers, and thus those classrooms, are networked.

It is one thing to talk about the cable or telephone companies hooking up every school, and quite another to bring networking capabilities into every classroom. There's usually a problem in wiring those classrooms — sometimes asbestos, which you alluded to, and always cost and flexibility of use. The answer to that dilemma is Data-PCS, a wireless technology ideally suited to the "campus" environment.

Many educators have filed comments at the Commission supporting Apple's proposal for Data-PCS. For example, EDUCOM, an association of more than six hundred U.S. universities and colleges has stated that Data-PCS "would allow...use of [networked computers] in the curriculum, in research projects and in ways that should improve instructional and research productivity." The American Council on Education, which is an organization of 1800 higher education institutions and associations, said that "the introduction and use of the new tools, workstations and personal computers, is a critical element in the continuing improvement of quality and capabilities of our students.... This [Apple] proposal would both facilitate inexpensive networking of personal computers and workstations and provide significant flexibility in their use." The National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, an organization of 149 such institutions, has expressed that position as well.

Apple Computer, Inc.
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As we discussed when I met with you last month, Apple and others in the computer industry have proposed using spectrum between 1910-1930 MHz for the purpose of Data-PCS. For this promising technology to have a future, it must have access to those most "easily" cleared frequencies, instead of the alternative that the FCC originally proposed last fall. That allocation is under reconsideration by the Commission at this time. I urge the Commission to give the computer industry the spectrum resources to make our common vision for our nation's schools a reality.

Apple Computer, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Stead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.