

sand. The entrenched commercial interests that currently crowd the EM spectrum CAN move their traffic to this technology, one that is capital intensive perhaps, but one of effectively INFINITE bandwidth. This approach has been eloquently proposed by Professor Negro Ponte at MIT (also known as the "Negro Ponte Switch").

The Negro Ponte Switch is clarion call for a long term solution. The RM-8653 NII is a immediate measure completely consistent with such an evenhanded strategy for the future and must be adopted, now. I emphatically oppose RM-8648, however, as another throwback to the previous era's assumptions. RM-8648 is responsive to a business model, and one of increasingly dubious utility.

If the user population of the Internet continues to grow at its present rate, every living person on the planet will be on-line by 2003. It will take some time before the majority of our populace awakens to the fact that government facilitated "land-grabs" (innocent or otherwise) have been going on under their noses for a long time. In the next century the EM resource will likely be as crucial to their lives as land itself, but THEY WILL, EVENTUALLY, WAKE UP.

The NII is little enough in the way of acknowledging reality at present and you must do it. We also need no more "Citizens Band" token solutions that are inherently useless. Give us enough usable spectrum to one day support the Internet (and as yet undreamed of private radiocom applications) and the United States will be poised to enter an unprecented era of possibilities. (Another "Citizens Band" sop would be like asking me to pay rent to a corporation for a domicile and entitled only to a annual picnic on slag heap as my "fair share" of the public lands.)

You must see through to the essence of these issues, my dear commissioners. Your duty is to me as a citizen and to the future - not to artificial life extension for industry's increasingly obsolete, historical business model. To do so would be tantamount to the Catholic Church arrogating unto itself the sole entitlement to the use and control of movable type; had it done so in Gutenberg's, time most of us would still be huddled around open fires wiping greasy hands on our thighs of an evening.

Thank you,

Richard Poole, CEO  
Apollonio & Poole, Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering, Inc.  
Bellingham, WA [rpooles@nas.com](mailto:rpooles@nas.com)

**From:** Brian Rosmaita <rosmaita@darwin.cc.nd.edu>  
**To:** A16.A16(RM-8653)  
**Date:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** petitions RM-8653 and RM-8648

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JUL 24 1995

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 24, 1995

Re: Support for petition RM-8653.  
Opposition to petition RM-8648.

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a private citizen to express my support for the Apple NII Communications Commons proposal, presented to the FCC as petition RM-8653, and to register my disapproval of WINForum petition RM-8648.

I support the NII Communications Commons proposal for the following reasons. The course of development of commercial services surrounding the internet has been toward the exclusive use of graphical user interfaces (GUIs), the motivation being that GUIs make computer use easier and consequently give more people access to information services. At the same time however, the use of GUIs is actually making access much more difficult--if not impossible--for blind computer users.

The basic backbone of internet technology is eminently suited to giving blind computer users access to libraries and other information services which can vastly improve both their participation in society as well as their quality of life--but the course of commercial development of software and access points to this backbone is cutting blind computer users out of the information superhighway.

Because of this trend in the development of wired networks, I believe that it is important that a space be maintained in the radio spectrum for non-commercial development of wireless computer network technology. Much of the adaptive software available for blind users has been developed as non-profit "shareware", and it is imperative that this be encouraged as the technology for wireless networks is developed. From a practical standpoint, it is obvious that wireless networks have the potential to positively affect the lives of the blind. A simple example is a portable computer equipped with a speech synthesizer: with wireless access to a computer network, such a computer can be used to download data to a blind user for a talking map--in real time when such a person is lost in DC's Metro system, say.

It is imperative that non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and private individuals have access to the radio spectrum for the purpose of establishing and maintaining informational networks specifically tailored to the needs of blind and handicapped individuals.

This is a developing technology, and it is important to make sure that handicapped persons--to whom this technology has the potential to benefit greatly--may take a role in ensuring that the technology develops in a direction which will realize this potential.

I therefore wish to vigorously second petition RM-8653's request that the FCC allow public use of the common radio spectrum within the 300 Mhz band for the purpose of establishing a low cost and widely accessible digital signal processing communications network.

In expressing my support for RM-8653, I also wish to register my opposition to petition RM-8648, filed by WINForum, which seeks to reserve the use of the 300 MHz spectrum for the exclusive use of in-office wireless networks, commercial wireless PBXes, and other commercial telecommunications endeavors. It is my firm belief that reallocating the specified spectrum to the commercial sector would be tantamount to the granting of a monopoly on wireless digital communications to corporate entities which have completely disregarded the needs and concerns of handicapped individuals in the past.

I believe that it is essential that the FCC safeguard the right of visually impaired individuals to access information and to communicate effectively in a medium which is easily accessible and immediately utilizable. One step in this direction is to allocate part of the radio spectrum for free, public use by unlicensed individuals (using type-licensed transceivers), with hardware-imposed rules intended to assure the equitable sharing of any and all allocated frequencies. The

Apple proposal for public use of a 300 Mhz band for the proposed NII band would not only best serve the public

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interest of the general public, but would be a landmark in the continuing struggle to resolve issues related to the public access of information and the informational infrastructure by the handicapped.

Sincerely,  
Brian J. Rosmaita

=====  
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Kent, OH 44240

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JUL 24 1995 PM

From: oedipus <rosmaita@pilot.njin.net>  
To: A16.A16(RM-8653, RM-8648)  
Date: [REDACTED]  
Subject: support for RM8653; opposition to RM8648

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 21, 1995

Re: Support for petition RM-8653.  
Opposition to petition RM-8648.

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a private citizen to express my support for the Apple NII Communications Commons proposal, presented to the FCC as petition RM-8653.

As a blind individual, I have been routinely reduced to roadkill on the information superhighway by commercial internet and network service and software providers which, through the implementation of increasingly exclusive graphical user interfaces, curtail my access to information in a medium -- namely, digital data and electronic text -- which is, ostensibly, not only immediately accessible to all, but -- more importantly, from the perspective of a blind or visually impaired individual -- immediately utilizable through the aid of an individual's adaptive equipment. Adaptive equipment, however, is not only extremely -- and often prohibitively -- expensive, but is compensatory in nature. Therefore, I believe that it is imperative that non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and private individuals have access to the radio spectrum for the purpose of establishing and maintaining informational networks which are not only specifically tailored to the needs of blind and handicapped individuals, but to the capacities of the adaptive equipment used by disabled individuals.

I therefore wish to vigorously second petition RM-8653's request that the FCC allow public use of the common radio spectrum within the 300 Mhz band for the purpose of establishing a low cost and widely accessible digital signal processing communications network.

In expressing my support for RM-8653, I also wish to register my opposition to petition RM-8648, filed by WINForum, which seeks to reserve the use of the 300 MHz spectrum for the exclusive use of in-office wireless networks, commercial wireless PBXes, and other commercial telecommunications endeavors. While I recognize telecommunications companies' right to exist and conduct business under the superintendence of the FCC, it is my firm belief that reallocating the specified spectrum to the commercial sector would be tantamount to the granting of a monopoly on wireless digital communications to corporate entities which have shown a pattern of callous disregard for the needs and concerns of handicapped individuals. The granting of such a monopoly to commercial telecommunications entities would, therefore, be an unwarranted and untenable violation of my rights as an individual citizen.

It is essential that the FCC safeguard the right of visually impaired individuals to access information and to communicate effectively in a medium which is easily accessible and immediately utilizable, by allocating the specified spectrum for free, public use by unlicensed individuals (using type-licensed transceivers), with hardware-imposed rules intended to assure the equitable sharing of any and all allocated frequencies. The Apple proposal for public use of a 300 Mhz band for the proposed NII band would not only best serve the public interest of the general public, but would be a landmark in the continuing struggle to resolve issues related to the public access of information and the informational infrastructure by the handicapped.

Sincerely,  
Gregory J. Rosmaita

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