BN 90-357
IB 95-91

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dr. Wilson Lundy
Acting Associate Administrator
Office of Space Communications
NASA HDQS
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear Mr. Lundy:

Dave Struba has, at our request, volunteered to serve on a panel of satellite experts to evaluate three pioneer's preference requests made by applicants for digital audio radio services (DARS) licenses. We write to express our appreciation to Dave and to you for accommodating our request and assisting the Commission by having Dave perform this critical review.

Under separate cover we will send Dave the materials submitted by the applicants for review, along with materials that set forth the relevant criteria for review. We are asking that each panelist submit to us, on or before September 16, a written recommendation whether each application merits a pioneer's preference, according to the relevant criteria. Each panelist will work independently on their evaluations at their own offices and will not be detailed to the Commission. The materials we will forward are not voluminous and we are confident that careful review and evaluation can be completed by September 16, even taking into account panelists' vacation schedules and other professional responsibilities.

Pat Carney in the Commission's Office of General Counsel is in the process of contacting all of the panelists to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest that would bar any individual's participation.

Again, thanks for your cooperation and assistance in this very important project. If you have any questions please call John Stern at (202) 418-0746.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Smith, Chief
Office of Engineering & Technology

Donald H. Gips, Acting Chief
International Bureau

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