



January 5, 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
c/o Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Comments in ET Docket No. 14-165 and GN Docket Nos. 12-268 and 14-166 Via Electronic Filing

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioner Clyburn, Commissioner Rosenworcel, Commissioner Pai, Commissioner O'Rielly and Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of McCarter Theatre Center, located in Princeton, NJ that provides approximately 225 performances a year to more than 125,000 audience members and education programs to 15,000 students with a varied program of live theatre and concert performances, I write with concern about protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices.

I understand the Commission has ruled that performing arts entities that regularly use 50 or more wireless devices will be eligible to apply for a Part 74 license. I've also learned that the FCC is seeking Comment on a proposed rule that would prevent performing arts entities using fewer than 50 wireless devices from participating in the database. This would leave my organization without any interference protection mechanism from the many TV Band Devices that may soon flood the market. Frequency coordination with other known wireless microphone users has become common practice, but there is no way to coordinate with TVBD's if you don't know about them.

Thousands of performances are held by professional performing arts organizations each year and the use of wireless microphones is both essential to producing high-quality performances and also mitigates against significant public safety concerns. Professional wireless capability, with successful interference protection, is essential to our sector.

At McCarter Theatre we use wireless microphones and in-ear communication devices. With simultaneous productions in our two theatres it is not usual for us to have between 12 and 24 channels of wireless devices in use. Over the course of a season we have between 15 and 20

productions and events during which the wireless mics are in use. Our wireless intercom system is in use at every performance.

We do not use the VHF channels. We use 22 channels of Low UHF in group G1 (470-530 MHz) and 2 channels of High UHF in group L3 (632-698 MHz). Our devices can tune to more than one frequency with band width of approximately 60 MHz. All of these microphones are analog.

We use ClearCom Tempest wireless communication devices backstage. This headset system operates outside the TV bands at 2.4 Ghz. This system is digital.

Our wireless gear as listed was all purchased when our theatre was forced to vacate the 700 MHz band. We spent approximately \$56,000 replacing equipment that was in perfectly good working order which precluded purchase of more needed equipment. The spending occurred in three parts over about a year and a half. Our hope would be that the new equipment would be in use for about fifteen years.

Hopefully the FCC will ensure that we don't have to replace our "new" gear and that the government will work with industry leaders to ensure newer digital systems can operate outside the TV spectrum, keep the audio fidelity of the current systems and most importantly, use a portion of the spectrum auction proceeds to create trade-in and other programs that will mitigate the cost of system upgrades.

I appreciate that the Commission has sought Public Comment on these very important issues. Professional performing arts organizations should all have some sort of interference protection. While some entities will be protected by access to the geo-location database, many professional performing arts organizations will not under this plan. Further, I would request that the Commission consider the burden already borne by the performing arts community in vacating the 700 MHz band. I am concerned about the cost of once again replacing my theatre's sound equipment.

Performing arts organizations provide demonstrable service to the public in improving quality of life; preserving our cultural heritage; and in providing education, enlightenment, entertainment. They also contribute to local economies in every community across this country. I respectfully request that the Commission maintain access to interference protection and establish a mechanism to reimburse performing arts organizations for the cost of new equipment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy J. Shields', written in a cursive style.

Timothy J. Shields  
Managing Director