



NAPERVILLE NORTH H. S.

899 North Mill St. Naperville, IL 60563-8998

630 420-6480 FAX: 630 420-4255

www.naperville203.org/north

1/7/2014

Dear FCC,

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, Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai, O'Rielly and Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of Naperville North High School in Naperville, IL, I write with concern about protection for our wireless microphones and backstage communications devices. We are a member of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA), the national voice of theatre education that includes more than 5,000 educators and 90,000 student members. The mission of EdTA is to provide theatre education opportunities for all students.

Naperville North High School presents over 50 public performances a year, with more than 7,000 attendees annually. Our school theatre program relies on the revenue generated in these performances to sustain and grow our in- and after-school theatre education opportunities for all of our 3,000 students. Wireless microphones are a fundamental aspect of our program, and understanding how to use them a critical component of our educational pedagogy, both for student performers and technicians.

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 school and thousands of others 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 are unaware of them.

Thousands of performances are held by both educational and professional performing arts organizations each year and the use of wireless microphones is essential to producing high-quality performances and also mitigates against significant public safety concerns.

Per the FCC's request for Public Comment, here are the details about our school's use of wireless devices:

- 24 Shure ULX-P Wireless microphones
- Wireless radio lighting controller
- Lighting and sound system wireless remote controllers
- Wireless communication headsets for crew personnel
- Typical use of 4-50 frequencies for any given performance
- Wireless presentation devices are used regularly in our auditorium
- The NPAC uses the following bands and channels:
 - VHF (216 MHz)
 - Low UHF (470 to 608 MHz)
 - High UHF (the 600 MHz band, 614 MHz to 698 MHz)
- We regularly rent additional wireless equipment for a given performance, and own equipment as well.
- To handle the move out of the 700 MHz band, we had to purchase 24 new wireless receivers and transmitters, and cost about \$20,000.
- The FCC should ensure that wireless microphone users transition to new, more efficient devices to the fullest extent possible. One way the FCC could help educational organizations with the reimbursement of the expenses for new devices would satisfy FCC regulations and phase-out.
- Financial incentive would persuade us to move out of the TV band and into a narrow digital spectrum. We do not have the funding to replace equipment that is in good working order.

I appreciate that the Commission has sought comment on these very important issues. I realize that the FCC is seeking a fair and reasonable solution to the TV band issues we are now facing, but that solution should allow *all* organizations—big and small, professional and educational—that some sort of interference protection. The currently proposed plan offers no such protection for many of us. Further, I would request that the Commission consider the burden already borne by the educational and performing arts community in vacating the 700 MHz band. I am concerned about the cost of once again replacing my school's sound equipment.

Theatre education programs are cornerstones of many schools cultural identity, nurturing 21st-century skills and knowledge for students and providing pride, entertainment, and dialogue in the communities, and contribute to the local economies. I respectfully request that the Commission maintain access to interference protection and establish a mechanism to reimburse educational and performing arts organizations for the cost of new equipment prompted by any proposed spectrum move.

Sincerely,



Patrick Spreadbury
Naperville Performing Arts Center Manager
Naperville North High School
899 Mill Street
Naperville, IL 60563