

Dear Sirs;

As a hearing impaired person, I was greatly concerned when I heard that the FCC was considering auctioning off parts of the secondary radio market, specifically in the 216-217 Mhz segment.

I derive great benefit from Assistive Listening Systems operating on on the 216-217 Mhz radio frequencies. These frequencies are used by FM assistive systems churches, theatres and by individuals at work and home. Moreover, some newer types of hearing aids now broadcast their signal on these frequencies.

I am submitting my comments in response to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Reallocation of the 216-220 MHz Bands.

I feel that some background information is necessary. The 72-76 Mhz band is still being used for this purpose and suppliers are still selling equipment that operates in that band. Many people experience interference on that band due to overcrowding. So far, the 216 - 217 Mhz band has less interference and is more reliable. It is the newest technology and shows great promise.

Currently, there are three implementations of the 216 band:

- (a) Ear level FM systems
- (b) Body worn FM systems
- (c) Sound field systems

Each implementation is critical for HOH people. Ear level systems are used extensively in schools because they satisfy a need for a child to not appear "different" with a body worn device.

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