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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Learning Resources
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ORIGINAL

Wireless @rcw?

May 4, 2001

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MAY 30 2001

Chairman Powell
Commissioners Furchgott-Roth, Ness, and Tristani
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

00-258

Dear FCC Commissioners:

I am writing you about an issue of tremendous importance to our community, the ITFS (Instructional Television Fixed Service) spectrum. ITFS is both an important part of our educational program at the St. Lucie County School Board and critical if wireless broadband is to become a reality for our 30,000 students and our entire community.

ITFS is a distance learning technology that has provided teacher training and classroom instruction to millions of students across the United States for more than 35 years. Nationally, nearly 1300 ITFS licensees serve thousands of public and parochial schools, colleges, and universities, providing greater access to professional development, more efficient delivery of curriculum, and various other educational opportunities.

This valuable service has recently come under assault from the wireless telephone industry. Third generation (3G) cell phone service providers are seeking more digital spectrum and have specifically targeted the 2.5hz band, presently occupied by ITFS. In St. Lucie County, Florida we are using our ITFS license to help educate and communicate each day with over 200,000 citizens, parents and students.

The FCC's Final Report on Instructional Fixed Television Services, issued March 30, 2001, supports what licensees have been saying all along – relocating all or part of ITFS would be a grave mistake.

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Given the considerable benefits of ITFS and your agency's findings, we urge you to stand up for the students and educators and not relocate any part of the ITFS spectrum. We at the St. Lucie County School Board hope that you will continue to support us in our ongoing educational mission by maintaining the integrity of our spectrum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Roberts". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jack Roberts
Director of Learning Resources