

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

NOV 14 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Proposal to Revise Multichannel Multipoint) RM-10586
Distribution Service and the Instructional)
Television Fixed Service Rules)

To: The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

COMMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

Department of Education, Archdiocese of New York (“the Archdiocese”), hereby submits these comments in support of the proposal (“Proposal”) by the Wireless Communications Association International, the National ITFS Association, and the Catholic Television Network to change the rules governing the Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service (“MMDS”) and the Instructional Television Fixed Service (“ITFS”).’ The revised rules would result in more streamlined licensing for MMDS and ITFS licensees, encourage the deployment of new wireless broadband services, and enhance the availability and usefulness of educational services across the United States.

The Archdiocese of New York serves three of New York’s five boroughs and seven upstate counties covering 4,700 square miles. For 35 years, the Archdiocese has been using ITFS frequencies to deliver instructional programming to its schools. Currently, the Archdiocese

¹ See “Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks Comment on Proposal to Revise Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service and Instructional Television Fixed Service Rules,” *Public Notice*, DA 02-2732 (rel. Oct.17, 2002).

provides instructional programming to nearly 47,000 students in more than 100 schools. More than 150 courses are offered each year at all levels.

The Archdiocese supports the Proposal because it provides a framework to protect existing ITFS operations while, at the same time, opening up the spectrum for a host of new two-way, interactive broadband services. These new services are vitally important, and will further our ability to serve teachers, students and others in the community.

The Proposal was the result of significant work by numerous ITFS and MMDS licensees, engineers, equipment vendors, and others with differing interests and perspectives. The Archdiocese urges the Commission to move swiftly to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in response to the Proposal so that others will have an opportunity to comment, and new services can be deployed at the earliest possible time.

Respectfully submitted,

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

By: 
William K. Keane

Arter & Hadden LLP
1801 K Street, N.W.
Suite 300L
Washington, D.C. 20006

Its Counsel

November 14, 2002