

October 18, 2005

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FCC - MAILROOM

The Honorable Kevin Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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IB Docket No. 05-221

Dear Chairman Martin:

It has come to my attention that the FCC has set as one of its highest priorities efforts to accelerate developing broadband access in America. In my capacity as President of MEA-MFT – a 16,000 member union of k-12 teachers and classified personnel, higher education faculty, state and county employees, and private sector health care providers who live and work all over Montana – I urge the Commission to emphasize solutions that will support broadband coverage in rural America. Despite significant broadband coverage throughout the U.S., many areas – including rural areas right here in Montana - still have inadequate coverage. Because of its ability to provide service everywhere, the satellite industry is a sector that could play a vital role in bringing broadband to millions more Americans.

In order to overcome the high cost typically associated with mobile satellite systems, I am looking forward to the availability of advanced hybrid satellite/ terrestrial systems. A hybrid network would allow a cell phone user to use a cell phone on existing cell towers or use a satellite network if the cell phone network is inoperative. Speaking from personal experience, uninterrupted cell phone usage has become a business and educational necessity in Montana.

I understand the Commission will soon determine whether to divide the remaining one-third of the 2 GHz mobile satellite service (“MSS”) spectrum between TMI/TerreStar Networks Inc. (“TerreStar”) and ICO Satellite Services (“ICO”) or take another approach.

I urge the FCC to move expeditiously on this item and support the allocation of this spectrum on a “2x10” basis to satellite operators that have demonstrated a commitment to compete and offer these services.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Eric Feaver, President
MEA-MFT

cc: Commissioner Kathleen O. Abernathy
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Secretary of the Commission

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