

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

I am an independent sound engineer, working with major touring performing artists. In short, I am one of the people who “make the show go on.” I am writing to let you know that I am deeply concerned about your pending ruling regarding use of the “White Spaces” spectrum (Docket 04-186).

My job is to allow artists to deliver a performance that is thrilling, memorable, and safe for the audience. This requires me to make full use of every type of technology available. Wireless microphones, wireless in-ear monitors, and wireless communications systems are fundamental tools for our industry. Without them, live performances would not be as exciting and popular as they are.

Your vote on November 4th could threaten my ability to produce quality performances, by allowing new consumer wireless devices to interfere with our wireless microphones and other wireless equipment. The FCC must take steps to insure that catastrophic interference does not occur:

1. There must be sufficient protected spectrum (that is free from White Space devices) to accommodate local and regional performing groups using a moderate number of wireless audio devices.
2. To accommodate large shows that use many wireless audio devices, it must be possible for show engineers and technicians to access the proposed online database to protect additional spectrum during the time and at the location of an event.
3. Spectrum sensing technology alone should not be relied on as the sole means of preventing portable White Space devices from interfering with wireless microphones and other users of the spectrum. The results from the FCC’s testing clearly shows that this technology often fails to detect that a wireless microphone is present, yet the Commission appears ready to proceed with it as a solution. To work effectively, portable devices also need to access the online database to prevent interference with both small and large-scale wireless microphone users.

The introduction of new devices into the White Spaces must be managed carefully to avoid disrupting the delicate technical balance that underlies every concert and musical event today. Performers, engineers, and technicians have worked hard to set high standards of sound quality. I hope that your ruling will allow me to maintain them.

Sincerely,

Gregory R Price

Front of House Engineer

Ozzy Osbourne, The Cheetah Girls, Rage Against The Machine