

James L. & Beatrice Cooper

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ATTN: T. Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Hi Tom,

Many moons have passed since our last meeting. At that time you were President of NCTA and I was President of Selkirk Communications.

I am contacting you today concerning The Black Television News Channel (BTNC) and their request for much needed regulatory relief. Last week the network filed a request for a temporary waiver of the advertising ban for channels occupying the DBS Public Interest channel capacity set-a-side by Congress. The filing is in the Public Notice & Comment phase.

The issue--- The Commission (not Congress) banned the sale of advertising on the DBS Public Interest set-a-side channels, and the FCC has the authority to waive the ban for good cause shown. I believe there is abundant good cause and that BTNC's programming is exactly what Congress had in mind when it created the Public Interest set-a-side.

Absent this Waiver, BTNC will not be able to generate sufficient revenue to offset its news gathering and production cost. BTNC has agreed to operate as a nonprofit throughout the entire temporary (three year) Waiver period.

BTNC's domestic and international operations center will be located on the campus of Florida A&M University - a historical black college and university located in Tallahassee, Florida. The Center for Economic Forecasting at Florida State University has determined that the launch of BTNC will generate \$33.6 million in economic stimulus yearly in Florida's state capitol. The network will also create more than 100 jobs, recruit and train aspiring black journalists, mentor HBCU students, and offer job placement services.

Your support is very important to the network, the college, the state and more than 40 million of the nation's African American television viewers. I encourage you to support the launch of our nation's first "culturally specific" news and educational television network.

Sincerely,

James L. Cooper