

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74 and 101)	WT Docket No. 03-66
of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the)	(Terminated)
Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access,)	
Educational and Other Advanced Services in the)	
2150-2162 and 2500-2690 MHz Bands)	
)	
Transforming the 2.5 GHz Band)	WT Docket No. 18-120

**COMMENTS OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS**

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)¹ hereby submits comments in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced dockets.² NAB confines its comments to a single issue – the protection of existing broadcast auxiliary uses in the 2483.5-2500 MHz band, which is both adjacent to and overlaps with the 2496-2690 MHz band under examination in this proceeding. A number of broadcast stations use this spectrum for electronic news gathering, and there is no obvious alternative available. However, in an apparent oversight, the NPRM makes no reference to this important use or the need to protect it.

¹ The National Association of Broadcasters is a nonprofit trade association that advocates on behalf of free local radio and television stations and broadcast networks before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and other federal agencies, and the courts.

² *Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74 and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access, Educational and Other Advanced Services in the 2150-2162 and 2500-2690 MHz Bands; Transforming the 2.5 GHz Band*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 03-66, WT Docket No. 18-120, FCC 18-59 (May 10, 2018) (NPRM).

Section 74.602(a) of the Commission's rules provides that the Commission will not accept applications or modifications to existing BAS licenses in the 2483.5-2500 MHz band.³ However, the rule also provides that licenses as of July 25, 1985, as well as licensees with applications on file on or before that date, were grandfathered and operate on a co-primary basis.⁴

A review of the Commission's database shows 66 active broadcast auxiliary licenses that include 2496-2500 MHz. Most of these licenses are for electronic newsgathering operations, meaning the transmitters are mobile or temporarily fixed at different locations. These operations are typically in large cities and employ essentially non-directional receive antennas at very high elevation sites, such as Sears Tower and the Hancock Building. Each licensed TV Pickup station authorizes an unlimited number of transmitters by the licensee. Further, use of these frequencies by broadcasters and networks can include use on aerial platforms such as blimps and helicopters.

NAB has no objection to the Commission's proposals to allow greater flexibility and additional use in the 2.5 GHz band. The NPRM does not mention existing BAS licensees and does not propose to displace them. Nonetheless, NAB emphasizes that uncoordinated use of spectrum in the 2496-2500 MHz band in areas where grandfathered licensees operate would result in substantial and harmful interference to both existing and new uses. We urge the Commission to make plain that grandfathered operations in this band will remain protected and that new operations must be coordinated to prevent harmful interference in the 2496-2500 MHz band.

³ 47 C.F.R. § 74.602(a).

⁴ *Id.*

Respectfully submitted,

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BROADCASTERS**

1771 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-5430

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Kaplan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rick Kaplan
Patrick McFadden
Robert Weller

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