



Dear Chairman Martin:

10/6/08

Almost a year ago Lakewood Church and Joel Osteen Ministries joined dozens of other organizations in expressing our concern regarding the current “White Spaces” proceedings. Implementing this policy will result in significant harm to the wireless microphone operations we rely on as part of our worship services as do tens of thousands of other organizations throughout the US. The FCC has tested several new devices and been subject to a barrage of lobbying by those interested in selling new devices in these white spaces area. As the FCC’s tests have shown, these new unlicensed devices pose interference issues for wireless systems.

I am writing today to express my concerns about this critical issue. I would also speak to some misperceptions being advanced by the advocates who are lobbying for this spectrum with little regard for non-profit Houses of Worship all of who provide a variety of services to local communities across this country.

Prior to becoming Pastor of Lakewood Church, I worked with my father to building this ministry for 17 years and was responsible for producing the television broadcast and church services, which included the technical aspects that included audio equipment. I personally can testify that our church services could not operate without our current wireless microphone technology. Wireless microphones allow pastors and musicians to interact more closely with members of our congregation. Since 1999, our television broadcast has expanded its reach across the U.S. and into over 139 countries each week. Wireless technology plays an ever-increasing roll in making this possible.

Each week 40,000 people attend Lakewood Church in addition to a weekly television audience of over 7,000,000. Those numbers do not include our live streaming audience and our Podcast that ranks many weeks in the “Top Ten” downloads for all categories. We also travel to cities across the nation, where we minister to capacity crowds in stadiums. In all of these activities, wireless microphones are essential to their success.

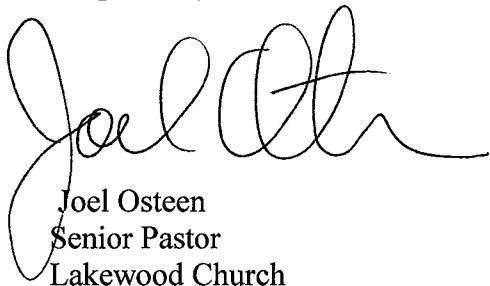


I am concerned that should the FCC turn a blind eye to wireless microphone use in Houses of Worship and opens these respective frequencies to new unlicensed devices, the Commission will cause immeasurable damage to our ability to minister. Static and audio dropouts due to interference from an unlicensed mobile wireless device would create a devastating distraction?

From what I have read about the testing conducted by the FCC there is clearly no reliable technology that can protect wireless microphones from the interference that comes from new portable devices operating in the same or adjacent channels as wireless microphones. We have worked diligently to coordinate the use of the wireless microphone systems that we deploy in each of our services. Adding new electronic devices to the mix would make our audio programming and coordination virtually impossible.

I urge the FCC to not authorize new unlicensed wireless devices that will most certainly interfere with our ability to operate. The FCC should require that all new devices provide complete and assured interference protection for existing wireless microphone users operating in this spectrum.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joel Osteen
Senior Pastor
Lakewood Church