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WCA Issues Statement On FCC Decision Advancing Rules For BRS/EBS At 2.5 GHz

WASHINGTON, DC (March 21, 2008) – Andrew Kreig, president of the [Wireless Communications Association International \(WCAI\)](http://www.wcai.com), issued the following statement regarding the FCC order, further rulemaking notice and a declaratory ruling issued on March 20 governing the Broadband Radio Service (BRS) and Educational Broadband Service (EBS) spectrum in the 2496-2690 MHz band.

“Although not without its flaws, yesterday’s FCC decision goes a long way towards providing licensees in the 2.5 GHz band a regulatory environment that will promote the deployment of high-speed, mobile wireless broadband access across America. The Commission is to be applauded for responding to the various industry concerns that are addressed in this decision.

“WCA thanks the Commission for heeding industry’s call for prompt action to fully license the 2.5 GHz band. The adoption of final rules to govern the re-auctioning of available BRS geographic licenses -- coupled with the Commission solicitation of comments on how best to license the EBS “white space” -- will promote the deployment of wireless broadband services to the American public. WCA looks forward to working with our friends at the National EBS Association and the Catholic Television Network over the coming months to assure that the EBS spectrum is licensed in a manner that is fair, that comports with the Commission’s objective of promoting educational use of the EBS spectrum, and that continues the important support that wireless broadband service operators provide to the EBS community.

“WCA is pleased also that the Commission has seen fit to adopt most of the proposals that industry advanced to assure that consumers will enjoy a wireless broadband service that is as free from harmful electrical interference as possible. However, we are highly concerned that the Commission’s decision to permit operations within the Gulf of Mexico under the existing 2.5 GHz band technical rules threatens to hobble service to the millions of Americans that reside in the areas bounding the Gulf. The oil and gas industry has ample spectrum, much of it today unused, that can be employed to meet its communications needs, and there is no compelling reason for the Commission to be jeopardizing land-based wireless broadband service. WCA had proposed rules that would have permitted operations in the Gulf, without jeopardizing land-based services. The Commission’s failure to adopt those rules is disappointing. WCA regrets also that the Commission has not taken additional steps to assure that BRS channel 1 licensees, who are being involuntarily relocated from their current spectrum at 2.1 GHz, are protected against interference from other services when they are moved to the 2.5 GHz band.”

About Wireless Communications Association International (WCAI)

Founded in 1988, the Wireless Communications Association represents the wireless broadband industry worldwide. For more information, visit: www.wcai.com. ##