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

DEC 3 9 11 AM '90

Application of)
Satellite CD Radio, Inc.)
for Authorization of a)
Digital Audio Radio Service)
Satellite System)

File Nos 49/50-DSS-P/LA-90

58/59-DSS-AMEND-90

COMMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO GRADUATE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF DIGITAL AUDIO RADIO
SERVICE REGULATORY POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

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Domestic Facilities Division
Satellite Radio Branch

The University of Colorado Graduate Telecommunications Program is actively involved in satellite system research for NASA and other aerospace and telecommunications organizations. Further, based upon its research and teaching activities, it is also very much involved in regulatory policy considerations. As such, we feel qualified to address certain of the regulatory policy aspects of the referenced Digital Audio Radio (DAR) satellite system.

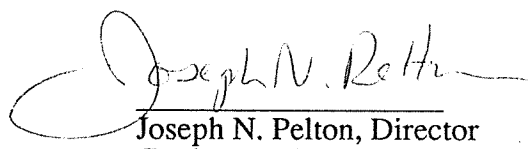
The referenced DAR satellite system involves two high-power broadcasting satellites, launched into geostationary orbit during the middle of 1994. Approximately 100 channels of compact disk quality radio programming would be broadcast directly from the satellite to small, low cost mobile and portable radios. Given the international scope of the offering, the limited number of channels being offered and regulatory expenses of a conventional approach, a non-common carrier regulatory structure is proposed. It is recommended that channel sales be offered directly to local broadcasters as well as new programmers operating on a subscription basis.

After preliminary review of the referenced DAR regulatory policy considerations, we believe the above course of action would be the most streamlined, effective, and conducive to the growth of this new service. The separation of satellite system operation from satellite system

programming should, of course, help to prevent abuses. The variety of programmer options (advertiser supported or subscription) should also ensure that the public will get those service that it best desires. A rigid common carrier structure would probably lead to service inflexibility, which would not be in the public interest.

Finally, we note the rapid increase in demand for mobile satellite services and the need for new or expanded frequency allocations in this field to not only satellite CD radio, but also AMSC, Iridium, ORBCOM, Starsys and others. Increased activity by the U.S. government to pursue such goals at WARC/ORB 1992 should be undertaken as a matter of priority or all of these exciting new initiatives will be seriously undermined or completely blocked.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joseph N. Pelton, Director
Graduate Telecommunications Program
University of Colorado at Boulder

Date: November 30, 1990

CC: Gerald Vaughn, Deputy Chief, Domestic Facilities Division
Cecily Holiday, Chief, Satellite Radio Bureau
Rosalee Chiara, Satellite Radio Bureau