



3 April 1999

Ms Marjorie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
The Portals
455-12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

CENTRE of AFRICAN STUDIES

The University of Edinburgh
Adam Ferguson Building
40 George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9LL
Telex 727442 (UNIVED G)
Fax 031 650 6535
Telephone 031 650 1000
or direct dial 031 650 3678

Dear Ms Salas,

Re: Amendment of AfriSpace Inc.'s Application for Authority to Construct, Launch and Operate a Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File No. CSS-90-017 (IBFS File No. SAT-LOA-19900723); Amendment File No. SAT-AMD-19990125-00016 (Call Sign 52367)

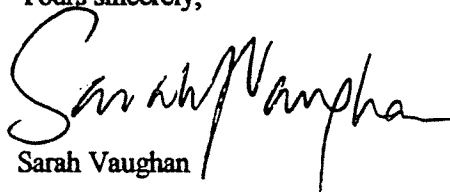
As a political scientist researching issues of ethnicity and conflict in the Horn of Africa, I am writing in support of AfriSpace Inc.'s application as detailed above, which I would urge the Federal Communications Commission to approve.

The potential for satellite-based digital radio broadcasting to address problems of conflict resolution and peace-building in Africa is immense. Throughout the continent ethnicity is one of a range of recurrent factors which seem to play a role in exacerbating conflictual situations. Informative programming regarding these commonalities as they operate in other comparable situations could play a great role in assisting communities (who often cannot be reached in other ways) to mitigate conflict.

More generally, radio programming which is widely accessible can be expected to have a dramatic impact on the cross-fertilisation of ideas within Africa in a wide spectrum of areas. From the perspective of a European academic centre of African Studies, this is an exciting and important prospect.

I very much hope that the Federal Communications Commission will be able to give favourable consideration to AfriSpace's application.

Yours sincerely,


Sarah Vaughan