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**Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs  
Association (EWEA)**



P.O. Box 9262, 1118, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, East Africa  
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Ref: No. EWEA/1071/99  
21 March 1999

Ms. Marjorie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445-12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Amendment of AfriSpace, Inc.'s Application for Authority to Construct, Launch and Operate a Subregional Africa and Middle Eastern Satellite Sound Broadcasting Transmission System, File No. CSS-90-017 [IBFS File No. SAT-LOA--19900723-00002]: Amendment File No. SAT-AMD-19990125-00016 (Call Sign 52367)

Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of the Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association (EWEA), I wish to express my unreserved support for AfriSpace's application to initiate a satellite broadcast system in Africa and the Middle East.

EWEA is a non-profit, independent, non-partisan association formed to promote the interest of Ethiopian women entrepreneurs in general. The association was founded in 1992 and is registered legally according to the Ethiopian Civil Code Article of 1960.

A leading aim of EWEA is to serve as forum for exchange of ideas, experiences, and information among women entrepreneurs in both the formal and informal--viz., traditional-- sectors of the economy. To this end, EWA assists rural and traditional entrepreneurs to organize themselves and collectively to articulate their interests and concerns. A major challenge in the fulfillment of these objectives is the lack of modern communications technologies enabling effective participation of the vast numbers of rural women entrepreneurs. In the fight to overcome this challenge, the communications technology offered by AfriSpace would prove a most valuable asset to the work of EWEA.

EWEA therefore urges approval of AfriSpace's application. Women throughout Africa, especially the least advantaged, stand to benefit immensely from AfriSpace's satellite communication system.

Sincerely,

**Yeshimbet Tessema**  
President of EWEA  
Deputy secretary General of AFWE.

AFFILIATE OF AFRICAN FEDERATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS (AFWE)