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ADDIS ABABA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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Our Ref. No.

PLEASE ADDRESS ANY REPLY
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL
☒ 2458 ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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24 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)

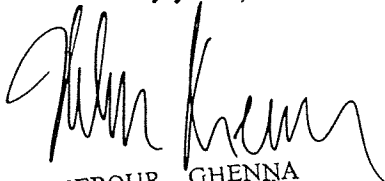
Dear Ms. Salas,

The Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce, with over 6,000 active membership, represents the full spectrum of business and industry in Addis Ababa. The Chamber strives to promote trade and investment, in line with free market economic principles, by protecting and promoting the interests of its members, serving as a bridge between the business community and the government, providing business support services, and promoting exports. In this regard the Addis Ababa Chamber has been providing businesses with much needed information services such as a reference library containing collections of overseas trade directories, reference works, periodicals, statistical data, government publications and other business related publications; including a newsletter to keep businesses abreast of latest legislations, business practices and opportunities.

The extraordinary size and diversity of the African continent has made it the least accessible of any region of the world to outside influences. One important consequence has been Africa's persistent underdevelopment. The technology of modern communications opens the prospect of making rapid strides in overcoming the isolation of the past. Furthermore, the AfriSpace proposal combines the popularly accepted communications medium of radio and the technology of transmission via satellite, which will enormously enhance the numbers of people who can be reached. Cognizant of the technology's enormous potential benefits to commerce and trade in Africa, the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the AfriSpace project's objective of improving communication and making information accessible to Africa and the Middle East.

I sincerely hope that the Commission will approve the AfriSpace application quickly so that the benefits of this new medium can start reaching these hitherto underserved regions.

Sincerely yours,


KEBOUR GHENNA
President

