Ladies and Gentlemen,

The proposed auction threatens to eliminate essential communications with rural western Oklahoma Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal members when our broadcast signal is eliminated. Our station, K47MU-D Cheyenne and Arapaho Television, is dedicated to preserving the culture and the two endangered languages of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. Since we are a public/non-commercial LPTV station and won't be eligible for financial assistance in channel relocation, we fear this could mean the end of our TV Station.

The Commission has a longstanding policy of promoting Tribal self-sufficiency and economic development and of helping ensure that Tribes have adequate access to communications services. Oklahoma is home to 39 Native American Tribes. Cheyenne and Arapaho Television is the only tribally owned broadcast TV station in the State and one of only a handful in the country.

Focusing on the particular needs of our members, in addition to educating about culture and language, we also serve to promote education in public health concerns, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic abuse and suicide prevention. We are currently producing a series of Anti-Meth Public Service Announcements. Should we be forced off the air, our tribal members would lose a great tool for progress and a valuable asset designed for the education and the uplifting of their spirit.

Broadcast television is an essential means of communicating with tribal members on our reservation in northwestern Oklahoma because cable television and broadband internet are unavailable or inaccessible to many tribal members. Dr. Kevin Kemper examined the problem of inadequate broadband access on tribal lands in the Journal of Information Policy 3 (2013): 442-463. “The overwhelming need for broadband access in Indian Country is an emergency in the 21st Century.”

We ask that the FCC honor the Statement of Policy on Establishing a Government-to-Government Relationship with Indian Tribes, Adopted June 8, 2000.
Pursuant to the historic trust relationship we ask that the fiduciary duty of the federal government to tribal governments be exercised to insure that the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes continue to be able to communicate with our tribal members through either broadcast television with a guarantee of a new channel and financial help in relocating to a different channel. Alternatively we need time and assistance in bringing broadband internet to tribal members in northwest Oklahoma to be able to stream programming over the internet.

As mentioned previously, our TV Station is committed to preserving the Cheyenne and Arapaho culture and teaching our 2 endangered languages. Please consider helping us continue this critical mission. Thank you for your consideration.

Eddie Hamilton
Governor

Bruce Whiteman,
Speaker of the Legislature
Cheyenne District 1