

18 May 1956

Mr. Grote Reber
General Delivery
Wailuku, Maui
Territory of Hawaii

Dear Grote:

Negotiations for the allocation of frequencies for use in radio astronomy have progressed since my last letter to you. There have been recent meetings with the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee and the Federal Communications Commission Representatives at which our case was presented and out of which have come a list of desired frequencies and probable locations of facilities. This list represents a best compromise and is attached.

The Federal Communications Commission is about to issue a Public Notice covering this subject and announcing their intention to allocate certain frequencies to this use. The Notice invites rebuttal by those present or potential users hurt by this action. As a part of the FCC Notice there is a list of the "line" frequencies and subharmonics. This list is also attached hereto. I believe that the action we will get at this time is protection of the line frequencies and some of the subharmonics - and this is good.

It is important that as soon as possible, each user or potential user of frequencies for radio astronomy, especially those listed in the attached table, write to the Federal Communications Commission stressing the importance of radio astronomy to science and to the national effort. It should be made clear in this communication how essential interference free regions of the spectrum are for this work and that effects of ionospheric and tropospheric scattering be considered. Much of the success of obtaining the allocation will depend on the effectiveness of the letters you and the others in the program will write.

It would also help to have the letter, or a supporting letter, come from as high an authority as you can manage - the President of the University for example, or the Director of your Laboratory.

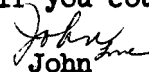
Thank you for your assistance. I would appreciate receiving a copy of your letter to the Federal Communications Commission.



John P. Hagen
Member, Panel on Radio Astronomy
National Science Foundation

Copy to:
Mrs. Hogg (NSF)

I thought you would be interested in what is being done in attempting to obtain frequency assignments for Radio Astronomy. If you could help us by writing to the FCC it would be appreciated.



John

There is more correspondence on this subject in Australia