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From: "Lori Barnes" <lbarnes@atg1.com>  
 To: <mpowell@fcc.gov>, <mcopps@fcc.gov>, <kabernat@fcc.gov>, <kjmweb@fcc.gov>, <msalas@fcc.gov>  
 Date: 12/26/01 12:57PM  
 Subject: Fw: letter

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December 26, 2001

JAN - 8 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
 Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201  
 Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Nextel's White Paper on 800 MHz Reconfiguration

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

JAN - 8 2002

On November 21, 2001, Nextel, Inc. submitted to the Commission a white paper which proposes to realign the 800 MHz land mobile radio band "to rectify commercial mobile radio - public safety interference and allocate additional spectrum to meet critical public safety needs." Several interested private land mobile representatives subsequently filed a letter with the Commission outlining the impact of this proposal on business and industrial land transportation (B/ILT) users. This letter serves to support the views of the aforementioned parties in this letter by elaborating on the damage that our particular business will suffer as a result of Nextel's proposal.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Nextel's proposed solution includes relocating B/ILT licensees at their own cost to 700 MHz or 900 MHz spectrum; recommending that they otherwise become secondary to public safety on a non-interference basis. We operate as a conventional SMR serving over 3000 analog units in the Central Valley of California. Beside farmers and oilmen, we also serve schools, ambulances and other public safety organizations. We operate on over 50 800MHz channels from eight mountain top stations in Kern County. Nextel has caused a major problems whenever our users drive near a Nextel tower. Our calls are blanked out by Nextel. I describe the problem is like swiss cheese. Where ever there is a Nextel tower, there is hole in our coverage. Imagine your community blanketed with holes in the coverage like swiss cheese.

Our initial costs estimates for relocation indicate that such a transition would cost our small business five to six million dollars. Moreover, the proposed relocation spectrum either has no equipment available yet (700 MHz) or is already overcrowded (900 MHz). And these possibilities are the "best case scenario," since Nextel's current licensing assignments in these bands are not available on a nationwide basis. Let Nextel move to 700 mHz or 220 or 3 GHz.

We urge the Commission to reject Nextel's proposal, as it is currently drafted. This action will be detrimental to the American business community; specifically, our nation's daily business communications. It is easy to see that acceptance of this proposal would have an adverse effect on the daily business that Congress and the White House are seeking to support to keep the economy alive. The private wireless industry is fully committed to working with the Commission to find a way to minimize public safety interference. We just ask that the solution not result in the wholesale

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eviction of private wireless systems from the 800 MHz band.

Sincerely,

Lori B. Barnes, President  
GILCOMM LLC  
4440 Easton Drive  
Bakersfield CA 93309-1028  
cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary