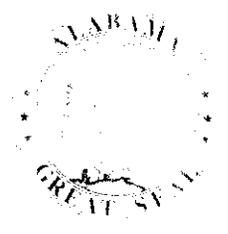


State of Alabama  
Department of Education  
Ed Richardson  
State Superintendent of Education

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June 19, 2002

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Alabama  
State Board  
of Education

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Esq., Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Gov. Don Siegelman  
President

**RE: Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band  
WT Docket No. 02-55**

Bradley Byrne  
District I

Dear Ms. Dortch:

G. J. "Dutch"  
Figgisbotham  
District II

I am writing on behalf of the Alabama Department of Education, Pupil Transportation Section to set forth our support of Southern LINC in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Pupil Transportation staff provides school bus safety services in the state of Alabama. In providing that service, we utilize Southern LINC's digital wireless communications network.

Stephanie W. Bell  
District III

Our understanding is that in the above-referenced proceeding, the Commission is reviewing the causes of, and possible solutions for, interference to public safety entities in the 800 MHz band. Southern's network operated in the 800 MHz band, and it is concerned that the Commission might realign the band such that its spectrum holdings, and thus its network, could be compromised. To avoid that, Southern has proposed a plan that would resolve interference to public safety entities but would not compromise Southern's system (or any other 800 MHz users' systems).

Dr. Ethel A. Hall  
District IV  
Vice President

The Pupil Transportation Section understands and strongly supports the communications needs of public safety entities that have their own private wireless communications systems in the 800 MHz band. We understand the desire of such entities to avoid harmful interference to their systems. The Federal Communications Commission should, to the extent necessary take steps to alleviate such interference.

Ella B. Bell  
District V

For its part, the Pupil Transportation Section utilizes Southern LINC for wireless communications. Unlike most other commercial providers, Southern LINC provides combined dispatch and interconnected service in the same handset, a feature that Pupil Transportation considers highly important. Also important is that Southern LINC's network comprehensively covers our jurisdiction and that its service is highly reliable and of high quality. The Pupil Transportation staff relies on Southern LINC for important public safety communications. We could not tolerate its service being shut-off, interrupted, or otherwise compromised.

David F. Byers, Jr.  
District VI

The Pupil Transportation Section has not studied all the particular interference resolution proposals that have been submitted to the Commission and does not have an opinion as to the continued vitality of Southern LINC, and for that reason we urge the Commission not to adopt a plan that would compromise Southern LINC's network. Southern LINC is a strong supporter and ally of the public safety community, and its ability to continue to provide wireless communications to public safety entities must not be jeopardized.

Sandra Ray  
District VII

Dr. Mary Jane Casler  
District VIII

Thank you for considering our position on this matter.

Dr. Ed Richardson  
Secretary and  
Executive Officer

Sincerely,

*Joe Lightsey*  
Joe Lightsey, Administrator  
Pupil Transportation

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cc: Thomas J. Sugrue, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Mr. Michael J. Wilhelm, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau