



**National Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

June 3, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band and Consolidating  
the 900 MHz Industrial/Land Transportation and Business Pool Channels  
FCC Docket No. 02-55**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

This letter is to express NRECA's support of the Balanced Approach Proposal as the preferable alternative to the so-called consensus plan offered in this docket. NRECA is the not-for-profit, national service organization representing 930 rural electric systems, of which at least 90 operate within the 800 MHz band.

As a signatory to the Balanced Approach Proposal, NRECA feels strongly that it presents a considerably more attractive approach than mandatory rebanding, and a much more effective solution to the interference being experienced by public safety licensees and others in the 800 MHz band.

Throughout our comments in this proceeding, we have advocated a combination of enhanced technical rules and private negotiations among effected licensees to resolve specific instances of interference rather than a needlessly complex, disruptive and costly rebanding.

NRECA is further encouraged by Motorola's May 6, 2003 filing that discusses technical solutions that could improve public safety communications in both the near and long term. We encourage the Commission to more fully explore these and other possible technical solutions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Wallace F. Tillman  
Vice President, Energy Policy  
& General Counsel