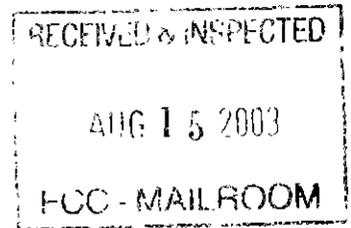




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## City of Mountain Home

720 SOUTH HICKORY • MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS 72653  
(870) 425-5116



August 13, 2003

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

RE In the Matter of Improving Public Safety Communications In The  
800 MHz Band, WT Docket No 02-55

Dear Madam Secretary

The City of Mountain Home is writing to express its opposition to Nextel's so-called "Consensus Plan" and to urge the FCC to adopt the "Balanced Approach," which was filed on May 29, 2003. As discussed below in greater detail, we believe that the Consensus Plan will unnecessarily jeopardize Public Safety communication systems. Instead, the FCC should adopt a solution, such as the Balanced Approach, that does not require Public Safety licensees to relocate and does not reduce their interference protection.

The City of Mountain Home has licensed an 800 MHz communications system, which is used by the police, fire, water and sewer, streets and parks. The communications system supports a number of City of Mountain Home's activities including public safety, emergency services and public works.

We are concerned that the Consensus Plan's relocation process is extremely complicated and there is no guarantee that Public Safety licensees will be able to continually operate their communications systems during this process. Furthermore, it is unrealistic to expect all Public Safety licensees to relocate in 12 months or less given the complexity of some Public Safety systems.

Also, Public Safety licensees could be subject to more interference because the Consensus Plan protects Public Safety licensees only if they meet certain signal strength and receiver requirements. Because most Public Safety communication systems do not meet these requirements, they will have to expend significant resources to ensure that they are protected from interference. Further, the interference situation could be worse if rebanding is not completed before Nextel's funding runs out.

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Therefore, the City of Mountain Home supports the Balanced Approach, which is superior to the Consensus Plan because it takes pro-active steps to immediately deal with Public Safety interference by relying on technical solutions and increased enforcement. As a result, this proposal is less disruptive and less expensive than the Consensus Plan so Public Safety communications will not be jeopardized. For all the reasons stated above, the City of Mountain Home urges the FCC to adopt the Balanced Approach.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed House", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ed House  
Mayor

EH sh