

ORIGINAL

CHAMBERLIN AND NOWAK  
Attorney for the Board

W/E. "Sluggo" DAVIS  
Clerk of the Board

DAVID ARMSTRONG  
County Administrator



Administration Building - 2000

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**COUNTY OF DESOTO**  
365 LOSHER STREET, SUITE 310  
HERNANDO, MS 38632  
662-429-5590  
FAX 662-449-1422

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

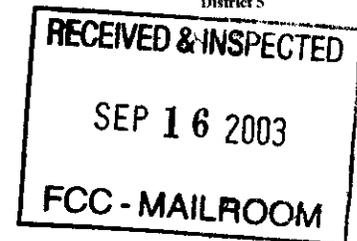
JESSIE L. MEDLIN  
District 1

EUGENE "Gene" C. THACH  
District 2

GERALD CLIFTON  
District 3

JOHN M.M. CALDWELL, SR.  
District 4

TOMMY LEWIS  
District 5



September 8, 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 (Ex Parte)

Dear Madam Secretary:

The DeSoto County Board of Supervisors 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 DeSoto County Board of Supervisors has licensed an 800MHz communications system, which is used by DeSoto County Emergency Services. The communications system supports a number of DeSoto County's activities including Sheriff, EMS, E911, and Civil Defense. 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.

Therefore, the DeSoto County Board of Supervisor 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 reasons stated above, the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors urges the FCC to adopt the Balanced Approach.

Cordially yours,

Gerald Clifton, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors

RECEIVED  
SEP 16 2003  
FCC - MAILROOM