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

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

Please help us reduce the potential for a tragedy caused by radio interference.

As a public safety official, representing 34 fire departments in Massachusetts, I would like to bring to your attention an important issue that deeply impacts this state and our country as a whole. The issue is public safety radio interference – a problem in serious need of a solution. Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band, resulting in hazardous and risky interference which causes lost communications and prevents our firefighters from doing their job safely and effectively.

There is a plan currently under consideration before the Federal Communications Commission that realigns the current cluttered licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. This plan will virtually eliminate public safety interference, provide additional spectrum to public safety and offer a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities all at no cost to Massachusetts residents or the American taxpayer.

The plan is known as the Consensus Plan and is the only proactive and comprehensive solution to this treacherous problem. Implementing the Consensus Plan would not cost taxpayers any money. As a public safety professional, I express my support for the Consensus Plan and strongly urge you and your agency to quickly approve this practical pro-active solution.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chief John Nash, Chairman Metrofire Radio
Winchester Massachusetts Fire Department
32 Mount Vernon Street
Winchester MA 01890

Copies to: Senator Edward M. Kennedy Senator John F. Kerry
 Congressman Edward J. Markey Congressman Barney Frank
 Congressman John F. Tierney Congressman Michael Capuano
 Congressman Stephen F. Lynch Congressman William Dellahunt
 Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission