Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

WT Docket Number 02-55

Dear Madame Secretary,

I write today to urge you to take action regarding the pressing problem of public safety interference in the 800 MHz spectrum. This interference to public safety radios is a dangerous reality for first responders and the communities we proudly protect.

It estimated that more than 350 public safety agencies will experience interference this year – the highest single-year total to date. As you know, this interference, by hampering the ability of public safety officials to communicate clearly, prevents firefighters from performing their jobs as well as they can and should. This puts lives at risk.

I know that there are other proposals to resolve the problem of interference at 800 MHz. Having looked at these, however, I feel that the Consensus Plan represents the most lasting and proactive solution to interference. By realigning the spectrum, public safety interference will be virtually eliminated. The Consensus Plan also provides additional spectrum to public safety for future communications platforms. Perhaps equally important, the Consensus Plan is the only plan that is fully funded – imposing no cost to the public safety community or the American taxpayer.

It is for that reason that I would like to express my support of the Consensus Plan and express my hope that you and your colleagues do the same.

Sincerely,

Chief Russ J. Pritchard
North Highline Fire
1243 SW 112th St.
Seattle, WA 98146-2150

CC:
Representative Jim McDermott
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