



CITY OF BRISTOL VIRGINIA

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

I have read with much interest on the proposed *Consensus Plan* that is currently under consideration at the Federal Communications Commission. This plan proposes to divide 800 MHz systems into blocks, effectively separating public safety and commercial cellular wireless carriers. The purpose of this strategy is to eliminate interference on public safety channels.

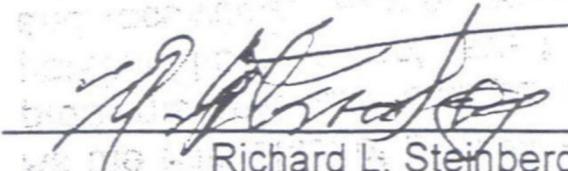
As the Fire Chief of a small career department in southwest Virginia, I have noted the problems that are created when radio interference is encountered. Emergency personnel often do not have the luxury of repeating a transmission – each must be clear and receivable. Any proposal that serves to achieve this end should be given every consideration.

In the correspondence I have reviewed on the *Consensus Plan*, I have noted that the plan can be implemented at no cost to the taxpayers. Since our taxpayers furnish the lion's share of our department's operating budget, this plan would benefit them in a dual manner – with improved service from our firefighters and public safety personnel and no additional monetary burden.

I appreciate this opportunity to express my views on this important issue. If you require any additional comments from me, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

BRISTOL VIRGINIA FIRE DEPARTMENT


Richard L. Steinberg
Fire Chief

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