# FEDERAL WAY FIRE DEPARTMENT

31617 1st Avenue South
Federal Way, Washington 98003-5201


December 1, 2003

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

WT Docket Number 02-55

Dear Madame Secretary,

As a chief of the Federal Way Fire Department it is my charge to uphold the trust of the communities and people I proudly protect. As such, the ability to respond efficiently and effectively to emergency is critically important. Right now, communications are compromised because of interference to first responders' radios. Luckily, there is a solution that will virtually eliminate this interference problem: the Consensus Plan.

The Consensus Plan is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. Adoption of the Plan will eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Equally importantly, the Plan gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a future platform for communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Existing alternatives to the Consensus Plan are short-sighted, reactive solutions that reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk.

The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with CMRS interference to public safety communications – and it also creates much needed additional spectrum available for public safety. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first. Continued inaction risks the lives of our fellow firefighters, police officers, emergency response personnel as well as the public we serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Allen Church
Federal Way Fire Department
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Cc:
Representative Adam Smith
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Tacoma, WA 98402