



December 11, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

RE: Support for the "Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment"
Ex Parte, WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As the Fire Chief of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R), the largest fire protection district in Oregon, I know that effective radio communications are critical to the mission of all public safety responders. In fact, any interference with radio transmission could mean the difference between life and death of the victims they are rescuing or of their fellow responders. For this reason, TVF&R, the Oregon Fire Chief's Association (OFCA), and the Western Fire Chief's Association (WFCA) are following the proceedings of FCC WT Docket No. 02-55 and request that our collective views be considered.

TVF&R and over 25 other local fire, law enforcement, and public agencies throughout Washington and Clackamas Counties use an 800 MHz trunked radio system. Our firefighters have experienced first-hand interference from cellular phones, which garbled or blocked our radio transmissions. Across the state, other agencies using 800 MHz systems have experienced the same problem.

The WFCA (representing fire chiefs from Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Utah), the OFCA, and TVF&R support and encourage the FCC to adopt the "Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment" as it provides the most viable solution formulated to date to address cellular/public safety radio interference and allocates additional spectrum well-needed by first responders. This plan also provides for private funding to compensate licensees for any necessary spectrum relocation.

Concurrently, we request the FCC work with Nextel to ensure that the funding is administered in a manner which ensures the interference problem is solved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey D. Johnson, Fire Chief
OFCA Board Member
WFCA Vice President

Office of the Fire Chief

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