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November 5, 2003

02-55

Honorable Michael Powell
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Public Safety
PU
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Dear Commissioner Powell:

I am writing to you regarding an issue of growing importance to the public safety providers and emergency "first responders" in my district. It is becoming increasingly clear that public safety organizations - fire, medical, police and other emergency groups - have insufficient radio spectrum to meet their critical needs.

As you know, the primary problem is that public safety and commercial radio frequencies are intermingled and adjacent to one another. This haphazard blending of communications networks is leading to dangerous interference that risks the lives of public safety personnel and the citizens they protect. It is the view of public safety leaders that as time passes this interference problem will continue to grow.

As it is explained to me, the fundamental cause of interference is the close proximity of public safety and commercial wireless operations within the 800 MHz spectrum band. The Federal Communications Commission should consider a comprehensive approach to rebanding that solves the problem on a national basis. Leaders in the public safety community believe that you can achieve this goal by enacting a plan that will provide additional spectrum to public safety at no cost to the public safety organizations and local governments that are now struggling with limited resources. With lives on the line, we cannot afford to do anything less.

This is a critical issue for our nation and I urge you to act expeditiously. In this era of increased homeland security, the need to equip our first responders with rapid and reliable communications must be a top priority. This interference to public safety communications needs to be remedied without delay.

Sincerely,

John T. Doolittle
JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
United States Representative

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