

**GEORGIA**



# HALL COUNTY 9-1-1

A Department of Hall County Public Safety  
Mailing Address: P.O. Drawer 1435, 30503  
Gainesville, Georgia

Telephone: (770) 531-6764 Fax: (770) 531-3948

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

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Hall County Georgia I would like to express our support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-reference proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

As a local Public Safety communications provider I have personally experienced the dysfunction of wireless two-way interference as related to this issue. Officers are put at risk as a result and local governments spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in an effort to design communications systems around the interference issues. A well-planned re-banding approach could position all effected parties in an interference free environment for a long term.

The Public Safety Consensus Plan, through guarded re-banding of spectrum would eliminate most high occurrence interference issues. Other suggested plans of approach simply treat the symptoms while not addressing the true cause. Through the Public Safety Consensus Plan, shared funding may be available to local governments to re-program critical communications equipment for the re-banded spectrum. In addition, additional spectrum may be re-allocated for Public Safety use through the Consensus Plan. At present, critical shortages of FCC authorized spectrum and bandwidth hamper local and State efforts in upgrading much needed security efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Bob Anderson.

Mr. Bob Anderson  
Director of Communications  
Hall County Georgia

July 24, 2003



**CITY OF SAVANNAH**  
**Bureau of Fire and Emergency Services**

121 E. Oglethorpe Ave. • Savannah, Georgia 31401-3799 • 912-651-6758 • Fax 912-651-6757

Customer Service Desk - (912) 651-6702

TDD - (912) 651-6758

October 30, 2003

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

As chief of the Savannah 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 emergencies 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 important, 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 fire fighters, police officers, emergency response personnel as well as the public we serve.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Taylor  
Fire Chief

c: Representative Max Burns

**Bryan Hunter**

635 Findlay Rd. , Pinehurst, GA 31070-8144

October 14, 2003 12:57 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Mitigation approaches are shortsighted, short-term solutions that inevitably will reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk. The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with the current banding for public safety -- and it also makes room for future needs. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first.

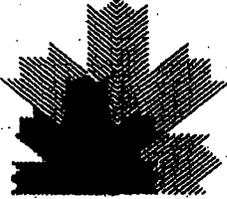
I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Bryan Hunter

**ILLINOIS**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



# Village of Woodridge

Police Department • One Plaza Drive • Woodridge, IL 60517-5015  
Emergency 9-1-1 • Non-Emergency (630) 719-4740 • FAX (630) 719-9266  
Geoffrey J. Korous, Chief of Police

August 26, 2003

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

RECEIVED & INDEXED

SEP 05 2003

FCC - MAIL

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

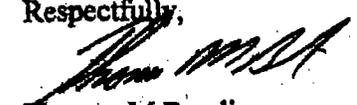
The Village of Woodridge would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-reference proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

Our Agency operates on 800 MHz radio systems and periodically we experience problems with interference. We believe the FCC should adopt the Consensus Plan to address all existing interference issues and to become proactive for any future problems that could impede the monitoring of emergency radio transmissions.

As we understand, this plan will provide funding necessary for implementation and will provide additional band channels.

As we are committed to our Citizens and to our Police Officers for their safety, we urge you to adopt this Plan and assist Public Safety Agencies, by allowing us to be prepared during any critical or emergency situation so that we can be assured interference in our radio systems will not be an issue.

Respectfully,



Thomas M Bondi  
Deputy Chief of Police

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FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF DIXON  
DEAN RHODES, CHIEF

113 WEST SECOND STREET • DIXON, ILLINOIS 61021 • 815 288-3323

November 24, 2003

Representative J. Dennis Hastert  
27 N. River Street  
Batavia, IL 60510

WT Docket Number 02-55

Dear Speaker of the House Hastert,

I am writing you concerning the matter of safe reliable communications. Our safety depends on it, and by safety I mean our lives. The organization that I am a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs has developed a solution called the Consensus Plan.

The Consensus Plan will realign the current jumbled licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and wireless carriers. This will virtually eliminate public safety interference and provide additional spectrum to public safety. The Consensus Plan is the only proposed solution that meets the needs of public safety and that is comprehensive, funded, and technically proven.

Please help solve this problem at its root by realigning the jumbled spectrum. I request that you support the implementation of the Consensus Plan. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dean Rhodes, Chief  
Dixon Fire Department

**Dennis Litwiler**

P.O. Box 148 , Aledo, IL 61231-0148

November 26, 2003 2:07 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Mitigation approaches are shortsighted, short-term solutions that inevitably will reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk. The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with the current banding for public safety -- and it also makes room for future needs. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first.

I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Dennis Litwiler

**Phil Lazzara**

6931 Red Bud Lane , Woodridge, IL 60517

November 20, 2003 3:10 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

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Sincerely,

Phil Lazzara

## **Harold Damron**

---

302 North Chicago Street , Joliet, IL 60432

October 29, 2003 12:35 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

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I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Harold Damron

**Jim Nachowicz**

1551 N. Milwaukee Av. , Libertyville, IL 60048

October 29, 2003 6:18 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

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I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Jim Nachowicz

**INDIANA**

## **Jessica Merritt**

---

7980 SR 64 , Georgetown, IN 47122-9051

November 8, 2003 4:40 AM

### **Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

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I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Jessica Merritt

**KANSAS**

**Duane Filkins**

3213 Sherwood Dr. , Lawrence, KS 66049-2125

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October 28, 2003 8:53 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

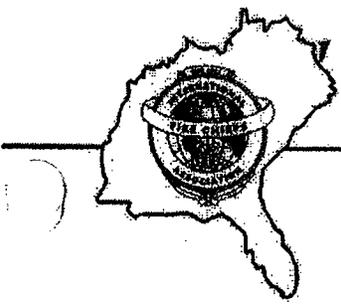
I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

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I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Duane Filkins



# **Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs**

**A Division of The International Association of Fire Chiefs**

**PO Box 4065, Lawrence, KS 66046-1065**

**Telephone: (785) 423-1818**

**Fax: (785) 542-3511**

**Internet: [www.seafc.org](http://www.seafc.org)**

**December 17, 2003**

**Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**Re: WT 02-55 Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band**

**Dear Madame Secretary,**

**One of the most pressing issues firefighters and other first responders face today is 800 MHz interference to their radios. In these times of heightened security and alert, our first responders need the support of the FCC in resolving this critical issue. No one can argue that highly reliable communications for public safety professionals does not save lives.**

**Interference in the 800 MHz band can come between a firefighter on the front line of defense and the chain of decision-makers assisting in an emergency situation. In fact, it is estimated that public safety agencies will experience interference at more than 350 locations this year – the highest single-year total to date. The trend is alarming and foreshadows the day when communications are interrupted during a future catastrophic event.**

**The Consensus Plan proposal for the realignment of the radio spectrum is the only solution to the current situation supported by all the major public safety organizations, including our national association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the Southeastern Division of the IAFC, Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, representing Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.**

**We advocate for the Consensus Plan because it:**

- Remedies interference to public safety communications systems and private wireless systems operating at 800 MHz**

- **Minimizes disruption to existing licensees and services - 70 percent of existing private wireless incumbents achieve benefits of Consensus Plan without any system modifications whatsoever**
- **Ensures public safety agencies have access to additional spectrum to support their critical missions**
- **Requires no federal, state or local funding to implement**

**In a nutshell, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I urge you and the FCC to adopt the Consensus Plan and to expedite implementation as quickly as possible.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Sacha Dick**

**Sacha Dick, Executive Director  
Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs**

**Copies to:  
Chairman Powell  
Commissioner Abernathy  
Commissioner Adelstein  
Commissioner Copps  
Commissioner Martin**

**KENTUCKY**

**Louis McClain**

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314 West 2nd Street , Frankfort, KY 40601

October 17, 2003 2:30 AM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Mitigation approaches are shortsighted, short-term solutions that inevitably will reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk. The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with the current banding for public safety -- and it also makes room for future needs. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first.

I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Louis McClain

**LOUISIANA**



Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Public Safety Services

M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

TERRY C. LANDRY, COLONEL  
SUPERINTENDENT

December 8, 2003  
0810/0202/TEL/1742  
HQ-1-1743

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to express my concern regarding an important issue that profoundly impacts the State of Louisiana and our country. The issue is public safety radio interference — a problem in desperate need of a solution. Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The problem: the technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless are incompatible with one another as neighbors. The result: dangerous interference, which causes garbled communications and prevents public safety officials from doing their jobs.

Interference mitigation is costly and drains valuable resources from state and local governments. I urge you not to implement any solution which would place the burden of cost on state or local governments.

The Consensus Plan, currently under the Commission's consideration, would realign the current jumbled licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. By implementing this plan, public safety interference will be virtually eliminated. Also, public safety will receive additional, critical spectrum for future communications needs.

COURTESY LOYALTY SERVICE  
OFFICE OF STATE POLICE, P.O. BOX 88814, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70899-8814  
(225) 325-5118

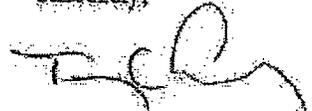
Page 2

Chairman Michael Powell

The Consensus Plan is the only proactive and comprehensive solution to the dangerous problem of public safety interference. Please support the public safety community. The only solution to the problem is separating the interfering technologies. This must be done in such a fashion that protects public safety systems, provides additional spectrum to public safety and does so without funding from state, local or federal tax dollars.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Colonel Terry C. Landry  
Superintendent  
Louisiana State Police

TCL:sj

c: Senator Mary Landrieu  
Senator John Breaux  
Congressman Richard Baker  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Secretary Marlene Dortch



# LOUISIANA MID-CONTINENT OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

801 NORTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 201, BATON ROUGE, LA 70802-5727  
TELEPHONE (225) 387-3205 FAX (225) 344-5502  
E-MAIL porter@lmoga.com

October 21, 2003

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

The Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA) is an organization representing the interests of companies involved in all facets of the energy sector in our state: exploration, production, pipeline transportation, refining, marketing and power generation. A number of our trade association's members operate 800 MHz trunked radio systems that provide critical public safety communications for police, fire and emergency personnel. We are aware that a number of our member companies are actively following this vital proceeding for public safety and request that our views be considered.

First responders in Louisiana and across the Nation are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications increases. First responders also urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions. Fortunately, a solution is available.

The Federal Communications Commission has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems and provide more of the spectrum that first responders urgently need for radio communications. We support the Consensus Plan along with the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc.; the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. and International Municipal Signal Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association; the Major County Sheriffs' Association; and the National Sheriffs' Association. The FCC must adopt the Consensus Plan expeditiously in its public safety spectrum rulemaking, WT Docket No. 02-55.

**Letter to Secretary Dortch**  
**October 21, 2003**  
**Page 2**

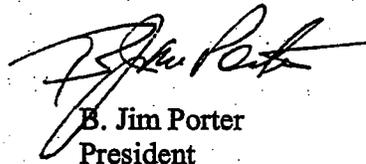
The Consensus Plan offers the only real, near-term solution to existing public safety radio problems. The Plan provides a comprehensive solution that addresses interference to public safety systems, allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs, provides private funding to compensate licensees that may need to relocate to new channels as the result of the Plan, and ensures that all affected licensees receive equivalent replacement spectrum as part of the spectrum swaps called for by the Consensus Plan.

Other proposals that have been made to the FCC fall far short and must be rejected. The UTC/cellular "plan" ignores the problems faced by public safety communicators and suggests that case-by-case, after-the-fact solutions could be found once interference manifests itself. Responding only after-the-fact to the problems affecting time-critical public safety services is not acceptable, since a single interference incident can jeopardize the lives of emergency personnel and the citizens they serve.

Section 1 of the Communications Act of 1934, provides that the FCC is to "promot[e] safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communication." The Consensus Plan would greatly advance this vital objective. It has been over sixteen months since the FCC began its public safety spectrum proceeding and over one year since the Consensus Plan was submitted. Supporters of the Consensus Plan have recently addressed the remaining implementation details associated with the Plan. There is no reason for the FCC to postpone action any further.

On behalf of LMOGA members, we urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt in full the terms of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,



B. Jim Porter  
President

cc: The Honorable Billy Tauzin

November 18, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

First responders in LA and across the Nation are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications increases. First responders also urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions. Fortunately, a solution is available.

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The Consensus Plan offers the only real, near-term solution to existing public safety radio problems. The Plan provides a comprehensive solution that addresses interference to public safety systems, allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs, provides private funding to compensate licensees that may need to relocate to new channels as the result of the Plan, and ensures that all affected licensees receive equivalent replacement spectrum as part of the spectrum swaps called for by the Consensus Plan.

Other proposals that have been made to the FCC fall far short and must be rejected. The UTC/cellular "plan" ignores the problems faced by public safety communicators and suggests that case-by-case, after-the-fact solutions could be found once interference manifests itself. Responding only after-the-fact to the problems affecting time-critical public safety services is not acceptable, since a single interference incident can jeopardize the lives of emergency personnel and the citizens they serve.

Section 1 of the Communications Act of 1934, provides that the FCC is to "promot[e] safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communication." The Consensus Plan would greatly advance this vital objective. It has been over sixteen months since the FCC began its public safety spectrum proceeding and over one year since the Consensus Plan was submitted. Supporters of the Consensus Plan have recently addressed the remaining implementation details associated with the Plan. There is no reason for the FCC to postpone action any further.

We urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt in full the terms of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

Chief Jeffrey L. Wesley  
Denham Springs Police Department  
Denham Springs, LA 70726

cc [Senator / Congressman]



City of Baker  
**Police Department**

P.O. Box 389  
Baker Louisiana 70704-0389  
(225) 775-6000  
FAX (225) 775-0936

**ORIGINAL**

RECEIVED & INSPECTED  
OCT 05 2003  
FCC - MAILROOM

S.J. "SID" GAUTREAUX III  
Chief of Police  
WR "BUDDY" MULLINS  
Assistant Chief  
MONA M ALMOND  
Secretary to Chief

October 29, 2003

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

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Baker Police Department, Baker, Louisiana, operates an 800 MHz trunked radio system providing critical public safety communications for police, fire and emergency personnel. We are actively following this vital proceeding for public safety and request that our views be considered.

First responders in Louisiana and across the Nation are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications increases. First responders also urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions. Fortunately, a solution is available.

The Federal Communications Commission has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems and provide more of the spectrum that first responders urgently need for radio communications. We support the Consensus Plan along with the Association of Public-Safety Officials-International, Inc.; the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. and International Municipal Signal Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association; the Major County Sheriffs' Association; and the National Sheriffs' Association. The FCC must adopt the Consensus Plan expeditiously in its public safety spectrum rulemaking, WT Docket No. 02-55.

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interference to public safety systems, allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs, provides private funding to compensate licensees that may need to relocate to new channels as the result of the Plan, and ensures that all affected licensees receive equivalent replacement spectrum as part of the spectrum swaps called for by the Consensus Plan.

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We urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt in full terms of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

  
Sid J. Gauthreaux III  
Chief of Police

cc: Congressman William Tauzin

**MARYLAND**

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Medical Services Personnel of Maryland

Leonard T. King, Sr., P.P.

Secretary

6047 Melbourne Avenue

Deale, Maryland 20751

410-867-3658

Fax 410-867-9073

e-mail: [lking@msfa.org](mailto:lking@msfa.org)

November 11, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 02-55 (Public Safety on 800 Megahertz Band)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The need for fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel to be able to quickly and efficiently communicate in times of crisis has never been greater.

On behalf of the President Terry E. Thompson of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and its 389 member organizations, representing over 35,000 volunteer emergency services personnel of Maryland, we're writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to approve the Consensus Plan to prevent radio interference to public safety communications systems. Our personnel are on the frontlines of fighting fires and ensuring the safety of Maryland citizens and emergency personnel everyday.

The FCC Chairman has said this is a top priority for the FCC. The FCC has committed to all emergency services personnel to address this serious topic, and as time passes, our danger from this problem continues to grow.

The Consensus Plan is the only proposal before the FCC that addresses this difficulty directly, and is the only proposition that has the support of America's leading public safety organizations, including:

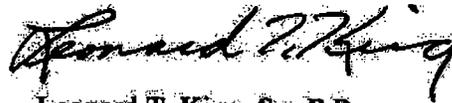
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
- The International Association of Fire Chiefs
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Major City and County Sheriffs Associations

**Ms. Marlene H. Dortch**  
**November 11, 2003 - Page 2**

Together with the private sector members of the Consensus Plan, more than 90 percent of affected licensees in the 800MHz band agree this is the finest way to work out this problem for public safety now. The Consensus Plan requires no Federal, State or local government public money and cost taxpayers nothing.

We cannot afford to wait any longer. Our officers, member organizations, and members hope the FCC will approve this plan soon, so we can get on with the process of re-banding and correcting this communications problem.

For the service,



**Leonard T. King, Sr., P.P.**  
**Secretary**

**Cc: MD Senators**  
**MD Representatives**  
**FCC Commissioners**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

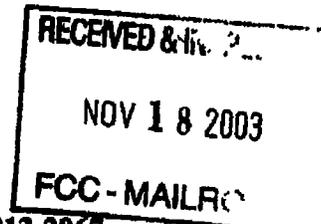
**MARYLAND FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**

**12445 FLEETWAY DRIVE  
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND 21842**

**ROGER A. STEGER, SR.  
VICE PRESIDENT**

**HOME: 410-213-0780  
PAGER: 410-334-8713**

**FAX: 410-213-2967  
EMAIL: [FChief750@aol.com](mailto:FChief750@aol.com)**



November 3, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 02-55 (Public Safety on 800 Megahertz Band)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The need for fire, rescue and EMS personnel to be able to quickly and efficiently communicate in times of crisis has never been greater.

On behalf of the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association and our 950 members, who are on the frontlines of fighting fires and ensuring the safety of Maryland citizens and emergency personnel everyday, we're writing to urge the FCC Commission to approve the Consensus Plan to prevent radio interference to public safety communications systems.

The FCC Chairman has said this is a top priority for the FCC. The FCC has committed to all fire fighters to address this serious topic, and as time passes, our danger from this problem continues to grow.

The Consensus Plan is the only proposal before the FCC that addresses this difficulty directly, and is the only proposition that has the support of America's leading public safety organizations, including:

- The International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police
- Major City and County Sheriff's Associations

Together with the private sector members of the Consensus Plan, more than 90 percent of affected licensees in the 800MHz band agree this is the finest way to work out this problem for public safety now. The Consensus Plan requires no public money and cost taxpayers nothing.

No of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

We cannot afford to wait any longer. Our Officers and members hope the FCC will approve this plan soon, so we can get on with the process of rebanding and correct this communications problem.

Sincerely,

  
Roger A. Steger, Sr.  
Vice President

cc: Senator Sarbanes  
Senator Mikulski  
Representative Gilchrest  
Representative Ruppertsberger  
Representative Cardin  
Representative Wynn  
Representative Hoyer  
Representative Barlett  
Representative Cummings  
Representative Van Hollen  
FCC Chairman Powell  
FCC Commissioner Abernathy  
FCC Commissioner Adelstein  
FCC Commissioner Copps  
FCC Commissioner Martin



## Office of Law

Linda M. Schuett, County Attorney

County Executive Janet S. Owens

2660 Riva Road, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 6675  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-222-7888

July 29, 2003

### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

Re: *Ex parte*, WT Docket No. 02-55, WT Docket No. 02-100

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Anne Arundel County, Maryland (the "County") hereby submits these comments for the Federal Communications Commission's (the "Commission") record in WT Docket No. 02-55. A copy is also provided for WT Docket No. 02-100, concerning the County's wireless siting ordinance.

The County has been an active participant in this important proceeding, which seeks permanent solutions to ongoing interference between commercial mobile radio service ("CMRS") providers and public safety communications systems in the 800 MHz band.<sup>1</sup> Because the County has experienced first-hand CMRS-public safety interference to its mission-critical public safety telecommunications system, the County files these comments to both update the Commission on continuing interference in the County and to clarify its position with respect to implementing an effective permanent solution.

The County's public safety communications system, heavily used by police and law enforcement officials across the County, has experienced harmful interference from CMRS providers for approximately five years. The County has attempted a variety of means to lessen the harmful impact of the interference. For example, the County has contacted the Commission for technical assistance; worked with its equipment vendor Motorola; obtained newer, more interference-resistant public safety receivers; hired an engineering firm to identify problem areas; and worked, albeit with

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<sup>1</sup> The County has filed comments in conjunction with other public safety jurisdictions across the country, such as San Diego City and County, the District of Columbia and the City of Philadelphia, among others. See Comments filed by the Public Safety Improvement Coalition, dated May 6, 2002, August 7, 2002 and February 10, 2003.

varying degrees of success, with the CMRS carriers that are contributing to the interference: Nextel, Verizon, and Cingular.

While Nextel contributes to the interference at a majority of sites, Cingular, the Cellular A carrier in the County, also contributes to CMRS-public safety interference at a large number of sites. Verizon, the Cellular B carrier in the County, also contributes at several sites. Co-locations by various combinations of these carriers, which we have encouraged to avoid tower proliferation in the County, have the unintended side effect of making interference resolution more difficult.

In any event, site-by site technical modifications at the impacting CMRS sites are not the most effective or timely way to mitigate interference. First, site-by-site steps are reactive -- often occurring only after interference incidents, which jeopardize County personnel and the public they serve.<sup>2</sup> Second, site-by-site testing and resolution is time consuming and costly, redirects scarce County (and carrier) resources from primary responsibilities and are, at best, only temporary mitigation measures. For example, minor subsequent changes by CMRS carriers necessary to meet the growing service requirements of our citizens can sometimes eliminate the benefits of other technical measures taken at the sites, requiring yet another round of site-by-site testing and technical modifications. Given the continuing growth of demand for wireless communications services, we suspect that the situation will reach the point that site-by-site technical modifications will no longer be effective.

We may already have reached that point in the County. Expecting commercial carriers to maintain a static environment over the long-term is increasingly unrealistic and unworkable. As the provided data shows, despite the continuing efforts of the CMRS carriers, interference is not being successfully mitigated at every site even though we have been working on some of these sites for years. Those that are temporarily lessened are certainly not permanently resolved.

Creating sufficient separation between the County's 800 MHZ frequencies and the CMRS carriers' frequencies is the best method to permanently resolve the interference we are facing today. The current adjacent and interleaved spectrum environment of the 800 MHZ band including both public safety channels in the middle of the 800 MHZ band and the NPSPAC channels higher in the band adjacent to both Nextel and Cingular, makes it impossible to achieve this separation. Until the spectrum is "de-interleaved" and the disparate technologies used by CMRS carriers and public safety systems are separated, we cannot predict every possible "dead spot" caused by our incompatible systems and our public safety personnel will be at risk.

The Commission must take prompt and decisive action to resolve this ongoing vital issue for public safety operators. One proposal for Commission consideration is the Consensus Parties' plan for realignment, a broad based solution to the problems facing the 800 MHZ band that includes a spectrum realignment component. The Consensus Parties' plan would separate public safety high-site systems and low-site CMRS systems through a band realignment -- thereby reducing substantially the probability of IM products falling on public safety channels. Under this plan, those

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<sup>2</sup> The need to be proactive in avoiding interference before it starts is a principal reason the County adopted the wireless siting ordinance challenged by Cingular and other carriers.

radios that are experiencing interference due to Out of Band Emissions ("OOBE") will be able to achieve the spectral separation necessary for improved operation in urbanized areas.

The Consensus Parties' plan isn't perfect and we have concerns about its possible implementation. These include funding for realignment across the nation, NPSPAC relocation and the current deployment of a Vehicle Repeater System ("VRS"), which currently requires greater separation than the Consensus Parties' plan's realignment of public safety operations would appear to provide. The Consensus Parties' plan, however, presents a spectrum realignment proposal that attacks the heart of the interference problem and proposes a potentially workable solution for the County, if these outstanding issues can be resolved.

The County has taken responsibility to improve its communications system, both its coverage and robustness, to help protect its citizens. Interference mitigation is a benefit of the County's planned improved system. As previously reported, the County has engaged in negotiations with Nextel for an exchange of frequencies that will put the County in a position to build this more robust system. Exchanging frequencies and building such a system, however, will not by itself solve the interference problems we experience today.

The proposed frequency exchange will relocate the County's channels from the interleaved middle portion of the 800 MHz band to slightly lower in the 800 MHz band. We will still be interleaved and nearby to Nextel's operations and are still close to cellular carriers' operations. The exchange, however, will permit the County to increase the number of sites it operates and license its sites at the power levels it requires to operate more robustly. In today's co-channel licensing environment, with non-County licensees on the County's channels as close as 55 miles away, the County's current 800 MHz frequencies will not allow it to expand its existing four-site system to the additional sites necessary to increase its coverage throughout the County. The proposed frequency exchange with Nextel, however, will allow this to occur. The proposed frequency swap will improve our spectrum access and thereby our coverage; by itself, however, it cannot eliminate intermodulation hits on Anne Arundel County channels or limit cellular OOBE sufficiently to eliminate all interference.

The frequency swap is intended only as one step in a broader interference resolution effort. The swap with Nextel gives the County access to channels it can use to improve its public safety radio communications system both in terms of coverage and reliability. While this is a positive step, a permanent interference solution requires de-interleaving the channels used for noise-limited public safety systems from those allocated for high-capacity, low-site cellular systems.

Our *ex parte* filing of July 17, 2003 described that even under a "best case" scenario – including new and improved radio equipment, completion of the frequency swap with Nextel and build out of a new and more robust communications system, as well as continued "Best Practices" and mitigation measures with County CMRS carriers, *intractable interference to our public safety system will remain.*<sup>3</sup> This is unacceptable to the County and must be rectified by a comprehensive solution to the interference problems faced by public safety across the Nation.

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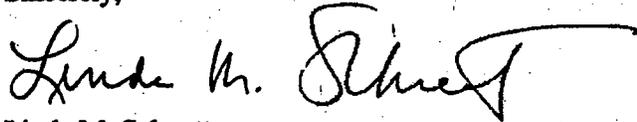
See the County's *ex parte* filing dated July 17, 2003 in WT Docket 02-100.

Page 4  
July 29, 2003

We believe that the Commission has an extensive record in which to make a decision in this vital matter. Further delay risks the lives of our public safety personnel and our citizens. We request that our views be placed in the Commission's docket for consideration in this matter and that the Commission issue a decision as soon as possible.

Should the Commission have any questions or need additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Linda M. Schuett  
County Attorney

## **Richard Woodward**

---

9 Linwood Court , Bel Air, MD 21014-3937

November 4, 2003 6:50 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Mitigation approaches are shortsighted, short-term solutions that inevitably will reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk. The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with the current banding for public safety -- and it also makes room for future needs. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first.

I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Richard Woodward

**MASSACHUSETTS**

EDWARD J. MARKEY  
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND  
THE INTERNET

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2107

December 18, 2003

2108 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2107  
(202) 225-2836

DISTRICT OFFICES:

5 HIGH STREET, SUITE 101  
MEDFORD, MA 02155  
(781) 386-2800

188 CONCORD STREET, SUITE 102  
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702  
(508) 875-2800  
[www.house.gov/markey](http://www.house.gov/markey)

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing with respect to public safety communications. In particular, I wish to comment upon the Commission's public interest responsibility in assuring public safety entities that they possess the spectrum resources requisite for performing their important duties for communities around the country.

As you well know, the Congress has acted in a number of instances in recent years to address the telecommunications needs of public safety entities. Congress enacted in 1997, budget-related provisions directing the Commission to set aside certain spectrum for future law enforcement use; in 1999, Congress enacted P.L. 106-81, which established 911 as the ubiquitous emergency number nationally and promoted the development in the States of enhanced 911 capabilities and related functions; and most recently, both House and Senate this session have passed grant program authorizations to assist public safety answering points in handling wireless calls. Hopefully this last measure will see quick legislative action in the upcoming session.

Without question, it is incumbent upon Congress to do even more to assist public safety entities, especially in the area of basic funding assistance for the communications infrastructure and interoperability requirements of public safety entities. Yet while Congress still has important work to do in this area, the Commission has the ability to assist public safety in a critical important area, namely the short and long-term spectrum needs of public safety entities.

During the August recess, I hosted a meeting in my congressional district which was attended by dozens of police and fire chiefs for local and regional authorities, FEMA and state law enforcement entities. At this meeting it quickly became clear that interference mitigation, interoperability, and the long-term emergency communications requirements of these jurisdictions were key concerns. As Terence Reardon, Chief of the Revere, Massachusetts, Police Department mentioned in a letter recently, one key problem is that "the technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless entities are mismatched with one another when they are located on channels close to each other.

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
December 18, 2003  
Page Two

The result: hazardous and risky interference, which causes distorted and jumbled communications and prevents our public safety officials from doing their job.”

I understand the Commission is currently considering proposals to resolve some of these issues, including the so-called “Consensus Plan.” I have been contacted in support of this plan by the North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council, the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council, and the Greater Boston Police Council, in addition to many individual local chiefs of police and fire departments in eastern Massachusetts. Collectively these entities represent over 400 law enforcement jurisdictions and thousands of uniformed first responders.

The Consensus Plan is a laudable, pro-active attempt to address key issues affecting public safety entities. I encourage the Commission to utilize the policy blueprint offered by the Plan as a basis to resolve outstanding issues in a timely manner. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to these important public safety spectrum issues, which I know you agree go to the heart of the Commission’s mission.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey  
Ranking Democrat  
House Subcommittee on  
Telecommunication and the Internet



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
THOMAS M. MENINO

October 6, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

I write today to urge you to take action regarding the pressing problem of public safety interference in the 800 MHz spectrum.

As Mayor of a city of more than 500,000 people, I know how important it is, in times of emergency and everyday, for our public safety officials to be able to communicate clearly and reliably. Without the ability to communicate when they need to, our first responders place themselves and the safety of the communities they serve at risk.

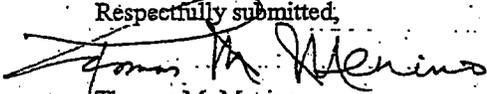
In the state of Massachusetts, where interference-related incidents have been reported in 9 of the state's 10 Congressional districts, public safety interference is an especially pervasive - and therefore, troubling - problem.

After researching the various proposed solutions, I feel that the Consensus Plan is the only viable solution to alleviate the problems of interference in the public safety spectrum. The Consensus Plan also provides additional spectrum to public safety and offers a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities. Perhaps most important to my constituents, this plan is fully funded and will not impose any burden on the taxpayer community.

The alternative plans, while admirable efforts, seem to stop short of the proactive and comprehensive approach of the Consensus Plan.

It is for that reason that I would like to go on the record in support of the Consensus Plan as the solution to the ongoing interference problem in the 800 MHz band.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor of Boston

cc: Commissioner Abernathy  
Commissioner Adelstein  
Commissioner Copps  
Commissioner Martin

The Honorable Edward Kennedy  
315 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kerry D-MA  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Chief Paul Thibault, Chairman  
Burlington Fire Department  
21 Center Street, Burlington MA 01803  
(781) 270-1925 Fax (781) 270-1930

# METROFIRE

Robert E. Doherty, Coordinator  
26 Beacon Street  
Woburn MA 01801  
(781) 933-5182

ARLINGTON  
BELMONT  
BOSTON  
BRAintree  
BROOKLINE  
BURLINGTON  
CAMBRIDGE  
CHELSEA  
DEDHAM  
EVERETT  
LEXINGTON  
LYNN  
MALDEN  
MASSPORT  
MEDFORD  
MELROSE  
MILTON  
NEEDHAM  
NEWTON  
QUINCY  
READING  
REVERE  
SAUGUS  
SOMERVILLE  
STONEHAM  
WAKEFIELD  
WALTHAM  
WATERTOWN  
WELLESLEY  
WESTON  
WEYMOUTH  
WINCHESTER  
WINTHROP  
WOBURN

Michael K. Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

Please help us reduce the potential for a tragedy caused by radio interference.

As a public safety official, representing 34 fire departments in Massachusetts, I would like to bring to your attention an important issue that deeply impacts this state and our country as a whole. The issue is public safety radio interference – a problem in serious need of a solution. Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band, resulting in hazardous and risky interference which causes lost communications and prevents our firefighters from doing their job safely and effectively.

There is a plan currently under consideration before the Federal Communications Commission that realigns the current cluttered licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. This plan will virtually eliminate public safety interference, provide additional spectrum to public safety and offer a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities all at no cost to Massachusetts residents or the American taxpayer.

The plan is known as the Consensus Plan and is the only proactive and comprehensive solution to this treacherous problem. Implementing the Consensus Plan would not cost taxpayers any money. As a public safety professional, I express my support for the Consensus Plan and strongly urge you and your agency to quickly approve this practical pro-active solution.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chief John Nash, Chairman Metrofire Radio  
Winchester Massachusetts Fire Department  
32 Mount Vernon Street  
Winchester MA 01890

Copies to:      Senator Edward M. Kennedy      Senator John F. Kerry  
                         Congressman Edward J. Markey      Congressman Barney Frank  
                         Congressman John F. Tierney      Congressman Michael Capuano  
                         Congressman Stephen F. Lynch      Congressman William Dellahunt  
                         Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission



Greater Boston Police Council, Inc.  
2 Winter Street - Suite 302  
Waltham, MA 02451  
Tel: 781-894-3531  
Fax: 781-647-3501

October 30, 2003

Michael E. Powell

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW, Room 3-3201

Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Greater Boston Police Council, North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council and the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council, each of which is a regional public safety organization in Massachusetts, we are writing to you regarding an important issue that impacts this state and our country as a whole. The issue is public safety radio interference which is a problem in serious need of a solution.

Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and overlapping channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The problem is that the technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless carriers are misaligned with one another when they are located on channels close to each other. This results in hazardous and risky interference which can cause distorted and garbled communications and hinder or prevent public safety officials from doing their job.

This letter is to express our support for the Consensus Plan currently under consideration before the Federal Communications Commission that realigns the current cluttered licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. We believe this plan will virtually

eliminate public safety interference in this area, provide additional spectrum to public safety and offer a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities. We also support this proposal because its sponsors indicate they are prepared to implement the plan at no cost to public safety agencies in Massachusetts.

We have included below some background information on our respective organizations for your information:

Greater Boston Police Council (GBPC) was established in 1970 as an early attempt to coordinate the radio communications systems of the metropolitan Boston area police departments, with an overall goal of improving interdepartmental police services. The GBPC is a consortium of over 330 law enforcement and public safety agencies from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. The core membership of the organization is the 71 GBPC full member departments spanning over 130 square miles of the Commonwealth's eastern seaboard - from Cape Ann in the north to the lower end of Massachusetts Bay and Elizabeth Harbor in the South and as far west as the Central Massachusetts community of Framingham.

The first mandate of the GBPC was the development of the radio system that has come to be known as the Boston Area Police Emergency Radio Network (BAPEREN) and remains in use today. The BAPEREN departments collectively represent a population of over 2 million people and employ over 10,000 full-time sworn police officers.

North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC), incorporated as a non-profit in 1969, is a consortium of 40 police chiefs and represents law enforcement agencies from communities physically located in over 600 square miles in northeastern Massachusetts, spanning Essex and Middlesex Counties. NEMLEC departments collectively represent a population of over 1 million people and employ over 2,300 full-time sworn police officers. Operating under an interagency mutual aid and assistance (Compact) agreement, NEMLEC has evolved over the years to address the ever-changing demands placed on the law enforcement profession by providing a system for the dissemination of information among law enforcement agencies and through mutual assistance and logistical support to meet the immediate requirements of an emergency or unusual situation. The NEMLEC departments have the capability of communicating across jurisdictions on a UHF repeater/voicing receiver system.

Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (Metro-LEC) was established as a non-profit organization in January 2012 for the purpose of providing a working collaboration between law enforcement agencies that are located in the southeast/west region of Massachusetts. The Metro-LEC presently consists of 38 principal police departments spanning over 600 square miles from Bristol, Middlesex Counties, and the Norfolk and Plymouth County Sheriff's Offices. Metro-LEC departments collectively represent a population of over 750,000 people and employ nearly 1,800 full-time sworn police officers. While Metro-LEC itself does not currently utilize its own individual radio network, more than half of the members are also full members of the GBPC. Further, nearly every member of the Metro-LEC utilizes the traditional model of CIRT radio communication and thus has operational access to EAPERRN.

Map of Membership Communities in Eastern Massachusetts

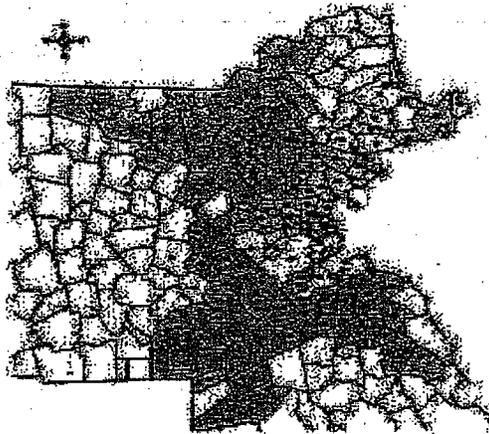
Greater Boston Police Council

Metropolitan LEC

North Eastern Mass LEC

Legend

- GBPC
- Metro-LEC
- NEMLEC



Your participation and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.  
Sincerely,

*Leo A. Sacco Jr.*

Leo A. Sacco Jr. - Chief of Police, Westford  
President, Greater Boston Police Council

*Brian J. Parnis*

Brian J. Parnis - Chief of Police, Andover  
President, North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council

*Dennis R. Manna*

Dennis R. Manna - Chief of Police, Norwick  
President, Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council

cc: Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Senator John F. Keay  
Congressman Edward J. Markey



**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
ISO Class 1 Fire Department  
HEADQUARTERS  
491 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MA. 02138



**GERALD R. REARDON**  
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

**JOHN J. O'DONOGHUE**  
ASSISTANT CHIEF

(617) 349-4974  
FAX (617) 349-4999

November 12, 2003

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

The City of Cambridge Massachusetts operates an 800 MHz Public Safety trunked radio system providing critical public safety communications for police, fire, emergency medical, HAZMAT, bomb units and various city departments' personnel. We are actively following this vital proceeding for public safety and request that our views be considered as Cambridge has and continues to experience interference issues that plague our communications system.

First responders in the City of Cambridge throughout Massachusetts and across the Nation are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the constant addition of cellular sites the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications increases. First responders also urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions. Fortunately, a solution is available.

The City of Cambridge is constantly expending time, and resources to tracking and dealing with interference issues. The sad reality is that although working with Nextel we can mitigate to a certain degree these issues; the bottom line is we **cannot under the present frequency allocation** eliminate these problems. My worst scenario is having a public safety member seriously injured or suffer a fatality do to this situation. We need your assistance to mitigate this situation at your level.

The Federal Communications Commission has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems and provide more of the spectrum that first responders urgently need for radio communications. We support the Consensus Plan along with the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc.; the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. and International Municipal Signal Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs' Association; the Major County Sheriffs' Association; and the National Sheriffs' Association. The FCC must adopt the Consensus Plan expeditiously in its public safety spectrum rulemaking, WT Docket No. 02-55.

The Consensus Plan offers the only real, near-term solution to existing public safety radio problems. The Plan provides a comprehensive solution that addresses interference to public safety systems, allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs, provides private funding to compensate licensees that may need to relocate to new channels as the result of the Plan, and ensures that all affected licensees receive equivalent replacement spectrum as part of the spectrum swaps called for by the Consensus Plan.

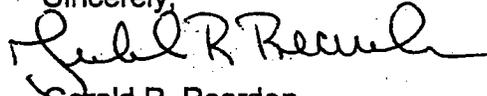
Other proposals that have been made to the FCC fall far short and must be rejected. The UTC/cellular "plan" ignores the problems faced by public safety communicators and suggests that case-by-case, after-the-fact solutions could be found once interference manifests itself. Responding only after-the-fact to the problems affecting time-critical public safety services is not acceptable, since a single interference incident can jeopardize the lives of emergency personnel and the citizens they serve.

Section 1 of the Communications Act of 1934, provides that the FCC is to "promote safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communication." The Consensus Plan would greatly advance this vital objective. It has been over sixteen months since the FCC began its public safety spectrum proceeding and over one year since the Consensus Plan was submitted. Supporters of the Consensus Plan have recently addressed the remaining implementation details associated with the Plan. There is no reason for the FCC to postpone action any further.

We urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt the terms of the Consensus Plan. We appreciate your help and stress that a serious interference incident can and will occur, our

collective goal is to remediate this situation as quickly as possible to protect our public safety personnel to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerald R. Reardon".

Gerald R. Reardon  
Chief of Department  
Radio Systems Engineer

cc, Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
Senator John F. Kerry  
Representative John Tierney  
Representative Michael Capuano  
Representative Edward Markey



# The City of REVERE, MASSACHUSETTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Terence K. Reardon • CHIEF OF POLICE

23 PLEASANT STREET, REVERE, MA 02151

(781) 284-1212 FAX (781) 286-8328

THOMAS G. AMBROSINO  
Mayor

Michael K. Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

November 10, 2003

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a public safety official in Massachusetts, I would like to bring to your attention an important issue that deeply impacts this state and our country as a whole. The issue is public safety radio interference – a problem in serious need of a solution. Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The problem is that the technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless entities are mismatched with one another when they are located on channels close to each other. The result: hazardous and risky interference, which causes distorted and jumbled communications and prevents our public safety officials from doing their job.

There is a plan currently under consideration before the Federal Communications Commission that realigns the current cluttered licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. This plan will virtually eliminate public safety interference, provide additional spectrum to public safety and offer a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities all at no cost to Massachusetts residents or the American taxpayer.

The plan is known as the Consensus Plan and is the only proactive and comprehensive solution to this treacherous problem. Implementing the Consensus Plan would not cost taxpayers any money. As a public safety professional, I express my support for the Consensus Plan and strongly urge you and your agency to quickly approve this practical pro-active solution.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Terence K. Reardon  
Chief, Revere Police Dept.



# City of Somerville

## Police Department

220 Washington Street  
Somerville, MA 02143  
(617) 625-1600



George F. McLean  
Chief of Police

November 24, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts operates an 800 MHz trunked radio system providing critical public safety communications for police, fire and emergency personnel. We are actively following this vital proceeding for public safety and request that our views be considered.

First responders in Massachusetts and across the Nation are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications increases. First responders also urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions. Fortunately, a solution is available.

The Federal Communications Commission has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems and provide more of the spectrum that first responders urgently need for radio communications. We support the Consensus Plan along with the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc.; the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. and International Municipal Signal Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association; the Major County Sheriffs' Association; and the National Sheriffs' Association. The FCC must adopt the Consensus Plan expeditiously in its public safety spectrum rulemaking, WT Docket No. 02-55.

The Consensus Plan offers the only real, near-term solution to existing public safety radio problems. The Plan provides a comprehensive solution that addresses interference to public safety systems, allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs, provides private funding to compensate licensees that may need to relocate to new channels as the result of the Plan, and ensures that all affected licensees receive equivalent replacement spectrum as part of the spectrum swaps called for by the Consensus Plan.

Other proposals that have been made to the FCC fall far short and must be rejected. The UTC/cellular "plan" ignores the problems faced by public safety communicators and suggests that case-by-case, after-the-fact solutions could be found once interference manifests itself. Responding only after-the-fact to the problems affecting time-critical public safety services is not acceptable, since a single interference incident can jeopardize the lives of emergency personnel and the citizens they serve.

Section 1 of the Communications Act of 1934, provides that the FCC is to "promot[e] safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communication." The Consensus Plan would greatly advance this vital objective. It has been over sixteen months since the FCC began its public safety spectrum proceeding and over one year since the Consensus Plan was submitted. Supporters of the Consensus Plan have recently addressed the remaining implementation details associated with the Plan. There is no reason for the FCC to postpone action any further.

We urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt in full the terms of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

George F. McLean  
Chief of Police

cc     Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
       Senator John F. Kerry  
       Congressman Michael E. Capuano



**JOHN J. THOMAS**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
chief@truropolice.org

*"A STATE ACCREDITED POLICE AGENCY"*

December 3, 2003

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

**Re: WT 02-55 (Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band)**

Madame Secretary,

On behalf of the Truro Police Department, I would like to express our support for the Consensus Plan as the solution for interference in the 800 MHz spectrum. Interference is a serious hazard. As a twenty-nine year veteran and a current police chief in the Cape area, I have first-hand experience that many times, radios are the lifeline for officers in the field, particularly in emergency and threatening situations.

The seriousness of the problem at hand cannot be diminished. Interference not only impedes the efficiency of first responders by losing time and hindering coordination, but also puts their lives – and the lives they have vowed to protect – in jeopardy.

The Consensus Plan is the only solution that addresses the severity of this situation. The plan would give public safety professionals a dedicated portion of radio spectrum, thereby virtually eliminating interference. All of the other proposals offer only a temporary fix to a situation that is in desperate need of a permanent solution.

Therefore, I urge you to do the right thing for public safety. Please implement the Consensus Plan now.

Sincerely,

John J. Thomas  
Chief of Police

**Copy to: Senator Kennedy**

Senator Kerry  
Congressman Delahunt  
FCC Chairman Powell  
FCC Commissioner Abernathy  
FCC Commissioner Martin  
FCC Commissioner Copps  
FCC Commissioner Adelstein



344 Route 6, Post Office Box 995, Truro, Massachusetts 02666-0995  
508-487-8730 [www.truropolice.org](http://www.truropolice.org)



November 20, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

The [Locale], [state] operates an 800 MHz trunked radio system providing critical public safety communications for police, fire and emergency personnel. We are actively following this vital proceeding for public safety and request that our views be considered.

First responders in [state] and across the Nation are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications increases. First responders also urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions. Fortunately, a solution is available.

The Federal Communications Commission has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems and provide more of the spectrum that first responders urgently need for radio communications. We support the Consensus Plan along with the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc.; the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. and International Municipal Signal Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association; the Major County Sheriffs' Association; and the National Sheriffs' Association. The FCC must adopt the Consensus Plan expeditiously in its public safety spectrum rulemaking, WT Docket No. 02-55.

The Consensus Plan offers the only real, near-term solution to existing public safety radio problems. The Plan provides a comprehensive solution that addresses interference to public safety systems, allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs, provides private funding to compensate licensees that may

need to relocate to new channels as the result of the Plan, and ensures that all affected licensees receive equivalent replacement spectrum as part of the spectrum swaps called for by the Consensus Plan.

Other proposals that have been made to the FCC fall far short and must be rejected. The UTC/cellular "plan" ignores the problems faced by public safety communicators and suggests that case-by-case, after-the-fact solutions could be found once interference manifests itself. Responding only after-the-fact to the problems affecting time-critical public safety services is not acceptable, since a single interference incident can jeopardize the lives of emergency personnel and the citizens they serve.

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We urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt in full the terms of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

Chief Gerard Dio  
Worcester Fire Department  
City of Worcester



FRANK A. GILIBERTI, JR.  
*Chief of Department*

## MEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

120 Main Street  
Medford, Massachusetts 02155-4510

Emergency - 911  
Business (781) 396-9400  
Fire Prevention (781) 396-9831



FAX: (781) 396-4377  
TDD: (781) 395-7587

December 4, 2003

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

RE: WT Docket Number 02-55

Dear Madame Secretary:

I write to express my concern about interference to public safety radios in the 800 MHz band. My fellow firefighters are experiencing interference on their radios. Though this may be a seemingly benign problem, it critically impacts our ability to serve the communities we have vowed to protect.

As someone who is all too familiar with what can happen when communications fail, I am hopeful that the Commission will adopt the Consensus Plan to realign the 800 MHz spectrum – the only fully-funded and viable solution to the problem of interference. The Consensus Plan will allow our department, as well as public safety departments throughout the United States, to regain sustained and uninterrupted access to the wireless spectrum.

I urge you to take the correct course of action to resolve this pressing problem and give first responders the tools we need to do our jobs right.

Respectfully,

Frank A. Giliberti, Jr.  
Chief of Department

CC: Representative Edward Markey  
5 High Street, Suite 101  
Medford, MA 02155

**Philip Sortin**

40 Hartwell Avenue , Lexington, MA 02421-3132

November 9, 2003 12:08 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Mitigation approaches are shortsighted, short-term solutions that inevitably will reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk. The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with the current banding for public safety -- and it also makes room for future needs. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first.

I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Philip Sortin



# Littleton Police Department

20 FOSTER STREET • LITTLETON, MA 01460-1540 • TELEPHONE (978) 952-2300 • FAX: (978) 952-2320

John M. Kelly  
CHIEF OF POLICE

Matthew J. King  
LIEUTENANT

December 16, 2003

Michael K. Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Docket 02-55**

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a public safety official in Massachusetts, I would like to bring to your attention an important issue that deeply impacts this state and our country as a whole. The issue is public safety radio interference – a problem in serious need of a solution. Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The problem is that the technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless entities are mismatched with one another when they are located on channels close to each other. The result: hazardous and risky interference, which causes distorted and jumbled communications and prevents our public safety officials from doing their job.

There is a plan currently under consideration before the Federal Communications Commission that realigns the current cluttered licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. This plan will virtually eliminate public safety interference, provide additional spectrum to public safety and offer a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities all at no cost to Massachusetts residents or the American taxpayer.

The plan is known as the Consensus Plan and is the only proactive and comprehensive solution to this treacherous problem. Implementing the Consensus Plan would not cost taxpayers any money. As a public safety professional, I express my support for the Consensus Plan and strongly urge you and your agency to quickly approve this practical pro-active solution.

Your kind attention to this matter is greatly appreciated, I would like to thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chief John M. Kelly  
Littleton (MA) Police Department  
978-952-2300

cc: The Honorable Edward Kennedy, US Senate  
The Honorable John Kerry, US Senate  
The Honorable Martin Meehan, US House of Representatives  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission

**MICHIGAN**

OCT-22-2003 11:15

MIKE ROGERS  
8TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

133 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4892  
(202) 225-5820 FAX

1327 EAST MICHIGAN AVENUE  
LANSING, MI 48912  
(517) 702-8000  
(517) 702-8842 FAX

(877) 633-MIKE TOLL-FREE

www.house.gov/mikerogers

Deputy Whip

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2208

P. 02/02  
COMMITTEE:  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE:  
ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
HEALTH  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

October 22, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

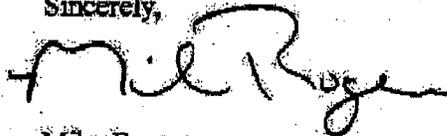
On behalf of citizens in Michigan's Eighth Congressional District, I write to alert you to an issue of growing importance to our public safety providers and emergency "first responders." It is becoming increasingly clear in conversations with my constituents that public safety organizations - fire, medical, 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 blending of communications networks is leading to dangerous interference that risks the lives of public safety personnel and the citizens they protect. I have heard from public safety leaders in Michigan about this, and it is their view that this interference problem will continue to grow over time.

As explained to me, the fundamental cause of interference is the close proximity of public safety and commercial wireless operations within the 300 MHz spectrum band. The 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.

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. As a former member of the law enforcement community, myself, I know that reliable communications can make the difference in a life or death situation.

Sincerely,



Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress

**MINNESOTA**



12 2003

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

WT Docket Number: 02-55

Dear Madame Secretary,

I am writing today to urge you to take action regarding the pressing problem of public safety interference in the 800 MHz spectrum.

As a fire chief, I know how important it is, in times of emergency and everyday, for first responders to be able to communicate clearly and reliably. Without the ability to communicate when we need to, we put both ourselves and the communities we protect at risk

The Consensus Plan is the only viable solution to alleviate the problems of interference in the public safety spectrum. By realigning the spectrum, we will be solving the interference problem in a comprehensive and proactive way. The Consensus Plan also provides additional spectrum to public safety and offers a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities. Perhaps equally important, this plan is fully funded and will not impose any burden on taxpayers

It is for that reason that I would like to go on the record in support of the Consensus Plan as the solution to the ongoing interference problem in the 800 MHz band.

Sincerely,

Chief Timothy E. Farmer  
Coon Rapids Fire  
11155 Robinson Dr NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433-3761

CC  
Representative Jim Ramstad  
103 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D C 20515

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

~~1~~ 0

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

WT Docket Number 02-55

Dear Madame Secretary,

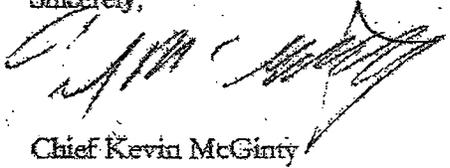
I write today to urge you to take action regarding the pressing problem of public safety interference in the 800 MHz spectrum. This interference to public safety radios is a dangerous reality for first responders and the communities we proudly protect.

It is 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 Kevin McGinty  
Richfield Fire  
6700 Portland Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55423-2560

CC:   
Representative Martin Olav Sabo  
Commerce at the Crossings, #286  
250 Second Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

**MISSISSIPPI**



RECEIVED & INSPECTED

AUG 19 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

**Jones County Emergency Operations Center**  
Phone (601) 428-3187 Fax (601) 428-3635

Don McKinnon  
Executive Director

22 Mason St  
Laurel MS 39440

Marlene H Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE Docket 02-55

Dear Ms Dortch

I Richard Ellzey would like to express my continued support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-reference proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems

Due to the problems we are experiencing with other carriers on the same frequency or adjacent frequencies We have the inability to communicate with the use of portables on a constant basis. Our Motorola 800 Mhz trunking system continuously creates diagnostic errors due to illegal carrier signals

I feel that adopting this plan will cure the on going problem that we and other agencies deal with on a day to day basis. I also believe that this plan will be a major step in the right direction for public safety systems to have their own 800 Mhz band

Respectfully submitted,  
Jones County Emergency Operations Center  
*Richard Ellzey*  
Richard Ellzey  
Communications Technician

August 11 2003

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

WT Docket Number 02-55

Dear Madame Secretary,

I am writing today to urge you to take action regarding the pressing problem of public safety interference in the 800 MHz spectrum.

As a fire chief, I know how important it is, in times of emergency and everyday, for first responders to be able to communicate clearly and reliably. Without the ability to communicate when we need to, we put both ourselves and the communities we protect at risk.

The Consensus Plan is the only viable solution to alleviate the problems of interference in the public safety spectrum. By realigning the spectrum, we will be solving the interference problem in a comprehensive and proactive way. The Consensus Plan also provides additional spectrum to public safety and offers a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities. Perhaps equally important, this plan is fully funded and will not impose any burden on taxpayers.

It is for that reason that I would like to go on the record in support of the Consensus Plan as the solution to the ongoing interference problem in the 800 MHz band.

Sincerely,



Chief Gary McDaniel  
Grenada Fire  
90 Kirk Avenue  
Grenada, MS 38901

CC:

Representative Roger Wicker  
600 West Main Street, Suite 210  
P.O. Box 1482  
Tupelo, MS 38802



# City of Tupelo

Larry K. Otis  
MAYOR

Fire Department  
Chief Michael C. Burns

November 25, 2003

## COUNCIL

Ed Neely  
Vice President  
At Large

Bill Nestmith  
At Large

Dick Hill  
Ward One

George M. Taylor  
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Smith Heavner  
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Nettie Y. Davis  
Ward Four

Larry Cole  
Ward Five

Perry Smith  
Ward Six

Danny Barrows  
President  
Ward Seven

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20544

WT Docket Number 02-25

Dear Madame Secretary,

I write to express my concern about interference to public safety radios in the 800 MHz band. My fellow firefighters are experiencing interference on their radios. Though this may be a seemingly benign problem, it critically impacts our ability to serve the communities we have vowed to protect.

As someone who is all too familiar with what can happen when communications fail, I am hopeful the Commission will adopt the Consensus Plan to realign the 800 MHz spectrum- the only fully-funded and viable solution to the problem of interface. The Consensus Plan will allow our department, as well as public safety departments throughout the United States, to regain sustained and uninterrupted access to the wireless spectrum.

I urge you to take the correct course of action to resolve this pressing problem and give first responders the tools we need to do our jobs right.

Respectfully,

Michael C. Burns, Fire Chief  
Lee County 911 Commissioner

CC: Representative Roger Wicker  
500 West Main Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 1482  
Tupelo, MS 38802



## COLUMBUS FIRE DEPARTMENT

205 7<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Columbus, Mississippi 39701  
(662) 329-5121  
Fire Chief James Massey

02-55

October 14, 2003

RECEIVED  
OCT 14 2003  
FCC MAIL ROOM

NOV 2 2003

D

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

Dear Madame Secretary,

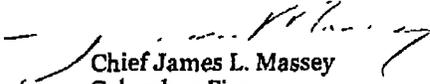
I write today to urge you to take action regarding the pressing problem of public safety interference in the 800 MHz spectrum. This interference to public safety radios is a dangerous reality for first responders and the communities we proudly protect.

It is 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 James L. Massey  
Columbus Fire  
PO Box 1408  
Columbus, MS 39703-1408

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

NOV 25 2003

FCC-GEA MAIL ROOM

**MISSOURI**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Leonard L. Griggs, Jr., P.E.  
Director

# LAMBERT-ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

*City of St. Louis Airport Authority*

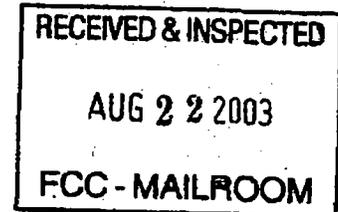
P O BOX 10212 • ST LOUIS, MISSOURI 63145-0212 • U S A  
TELEPHONE (314) 426-8000 • WEBSITE www.lambert-stlouis.com



Francis G. Slay  
Mayor  
City of St. Louis

August 13, 2003

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



Re: Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The St. Louis Airport Authority would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by the various public safety organizations, in the above referenced proceeding, concerning interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

As the owner-owner/operator of the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, the authority is responsible for the public safety of approximately 30 million passengers per year, and 13,000 airport employees on a daily basis. We depend on our 800 MHz system to provide the communications needed to support our Police, Fire, and EMS responders, as well as Operations and Maintenance activities, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Although we have not experienced interference problems to date, we advocate a proactive approach as opposed to a reactive one.

It is for this reason we support the Consensus Plan, as we believe that it takes a proactive approach to eliminate interference to critical public safety systems, and will address the root cause of interference. In addition, we believe that this approach will not place an undue economic burden on public safety, at a time when limited funding would be better directed toward other, equally critical, safety and security issues facing public transportation in the world of today.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

William B. Korte  
Airport Administrator  
St. Louis Airport Authority

WBK/aml

**MONTANA**

**Congress of the United States**

Washington, DC 20510

November 18, 2003

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Powell:

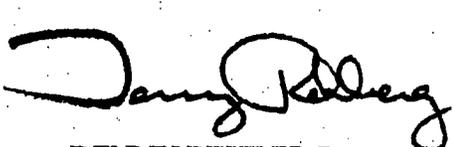
Public safety leaders in Montana and around the country have contacted us about the alarming problems with public safety interference. The fact that these local police officers, firefighters, emergency response personnel, and other first responders are concerned about their safety and the safety of those they protect is of great concern. In this new era of increased homeland security, equipping our first responders with rapid and reliable communications needs to be a top priority.

Interference to public safety communications is a growing problem in Montana and should be remedied in a comprehensive and pro-active manner. We cannot continue with a "wait and see" approach to resolving interference -- the risk to our public safety professionals and the American public is too great.

The fundamental cause of interference is the close proximity of public safety and commercial wireless operations within the 800 MHz spectrum band. In order to virtually eliminate the probability of interference occurring, the 800 MHz spectrum should be realigned. Ideally, any solution to this problem accomplishes this goal while at the same time providing additional spectrum to public safety with 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.

As time passes, our risks from this problem continue to grow. This is a critical issue for our constituents and our nation. We urge you to act expeditiously by putting the safety and effectiveness of public safety officials first.

Sincerely,



DENNY REHBERG  
U.S. Congressman



CONRAD BURNS  
U.S. Senator

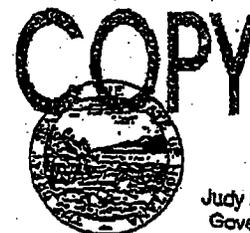


MAX BAUCUS  
U.S. Senator



STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION



Judy Martz  
Governor

October 31, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 02-55 (Public Safety on 800 Megahertz Band)

Dear Ms. Dortch :

On behalf of the State of Montana's Public Safety Services Office, I am writing to ask for your consideration of a significant issue that affects the state of Montana and our nation regarding public safety - radio interference and interoperability. Commercial wireless operators and public safety agencies both use dedicated channels on the 800 MHz spectrum on interleaved adjacent bands. These technologies operating close together create major problems for our emergency first responders when interference keeps them from communicating via their emergency dispatch radios. The elimination of spectrum interference requires the immediate attention of the FCC.

Having resided in the Rocky Mountain region for over 5 years, reports of serious interference issues have been noted in this region, particularly in the Denver Metro area. These problems will only continue to increase as demand for cellular services rises.

Montana faces these issues when cellular carriers begin new operations in the Billings area. This will present the same interference problems confronting other public safety agencies. Montana cities that plan migration to 800-MHz will encounter the same conditions causing dangerous interference that affects public safety agencies across the nation.

The FCC is considering a plan to address the predicament of 800 MHz systems licensing. The plan is known as the Consensus Plan and will virtually eliminate this problematic interference, provide much needed additional spectrum for public safety and our first responders, and would provide an underpinning for future expansion.

We support of the Consensus Plan solution and urge the Commission to adopt the plan to solve this life-threatening problem in public safety communications.

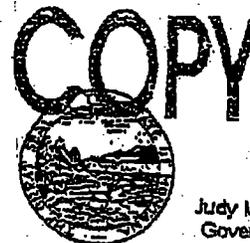
Sincerely,

Jenny Hansen, Manager  
Public Safety Services Office  
State of Montana

Room 229, Mitchell Building  
125 North Roberts  
P. O. Box 200113  
Helena, Montana 59620-0113



STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION



Judy Martz  
Governor

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION

31 OCT 03

To: The Honorable Senator Conrad Burns  
From: Jenny Hansen, Manager – Public Safety Services Office  
Department of Administration – State of Montana  
Subject: Consensus Plan – 800 MHz

Dear Senator Burns,

As the Manager of the Public Safety Services Office for the state of Montana, I understand the importance a reliable communications system has for firefighters, police officers and other public safety officials to perform their duties safely and effectively.

Unfortunately, the lives of these crucial personnel and the citizens they are sworn to protect are being jeopardized due to the intermingling of the public safety and commercial radio frequencies in the 800 MHz spectrum. This is a problem that requires serious consideration and prompt action if we are to avoid the loss of life that could ultimately result from such a situation.

Currently, the FCC is considering the Consensus Plan that I believe would address the problem in a fair and equitable manner especially for the parties that matter the most in this entire debate; public safety personnel and the citizens they serve. A realignment of the 800 MHz spectrum will eliminate this life-threatening interference by separating public safety from commercial operators.

This plan makes the most sense not only from a technological standpoint, but from a cost one as well. The way it is currently structured, the costs for realignment will be born by the private sector and not taxpayers or public safety organizations whose resources are limited and can be more effectively spent saving and protecting lives.

Senator, in my role I understand the need for a safe, reliable and effective communications system to protect the citizens of our state. The Consensus Plan would provide such a platform and I strongly urge you to communicate your support of the Plan to the FCC.

Sincerely,

Jenny Hansen  
Manager, Public Safety Services Office  
State of Montana

Cc: Governor Judy Martz (MT)  
Scott Darkenwald, Director, Department of Administration (MT)  
Brian M. Wolf, Chief Information Officer (MT)

Room 229, Mitchell Building  
125 North Roberts  
P. O. Box 200112  
Helena, Montana 59620-0112

# Custer County Sheriff's Office

Miles City, Montana



Tony Harbaugh, Sheriff

Tom Frank, Undersheriff

1010 Main

Custer County

(406) 874-3320

Fax 406-874-3444

Miles City, Montana 59301

October 20, 2003

Senator Conrad Burns  
United States Senate  
187 Dirksen  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Conrad:

Across the United States, public safety organizations - fire, medical, police and other Emergency groups - depend on reliable communications to meet their mission - critical needs.

Today, public safety and commercial radio frequencies on which these communications systems operate are intermingled and adjacent to one another. This coupling of incompatible communications networks leads to dangerous interference that risks the lives of public safety personnel and the citizens they protect.

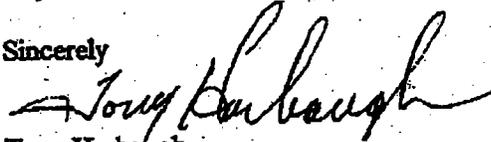
As public safety communications needs and commercial use continues to grow, interference does too - with 2003 on pace to be the worst year on record. Fifty-one (51) individual public safety agencies have reported interference at 117 different locations through April 30, 2003.

The public safety communities, leading private wireless organizations and Nextel have joined together in submitting to the FCC a Consensus Plan for improving the spectrum environment at 800 MHz. The Consensus Plan will realign the current jumbled licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. This will virtually eliminate public safety interference, provide additional spectrum to public safety and offer a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities.

The Consensus Plan is a proactive, affordable and comprehensive solution. Only the Consensus Plan provides a solution that is fully funded - requires no federal, state or local funding to implement; minimizes disruption to existing licensees and service; and solves the current problems while preparing for additional needs in the future.

The consensus Plan is the only viable solution to the public safety interference problem. I urge you to contact the FCC and ask them to join those on the front lines and help eliminate interference that first responders face by supporting the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Harbaugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Harbaugh  
Custer County Sheriff

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**



RICHARD M. FLYNN  
COMMISSIONER

State of New Hampshire  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
JAMES H. HAYES BLDG. 10 HAZEN DR. CONCORD, NH 03305  
603/271-2791  
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

October 28, 2003

Senator Judd Gregg  
393 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: FCC Docket No. 02-55 (Public Safety on 800 Megahertz Band)

Dear Senator Gregg:

I am writing to ask your support for a plan known as the Consensus Plan which is now pending before the FCC in FCC Docket No. 02-55. The FCC is expected to vote on this plan soon after November 1, 2003.

This docket concerns a realignment of the 800 MHz system, and will virtually eliminate interference with public safety communications in that spectrum. The Consensus Plan is a good plan for first responders, and I am therefore seeking your endorsement for this plan that will be helpful to the public safety community.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Richard M. Flynn  
Commissioner

RED/tp

Cc: Miss Marlene H. Dortch, FCC

**NEW JERSEY**

## **Thomas Wright**

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8 Diamond Ct. , Franklin Park, NJ 08823

October 15, 2003 4:35 PM

### **Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Mitigation approaches are shortsighted, short-term solutions that inevitably will reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk. The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with the current banding for public safety -- and it also makes room for future needs. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first.

I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Thomas Wright

**Kevin Calvo**

21 Whispering Pines Way , Piscataway, NJ 08854

October 14, 2003 5:41 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

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Sincerely,

Kevin Calvo

**Francis Kinney**

---

70 Johnson Street , Waretown, NJ 08758

October 27, 2003 2:04 PM

**Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan**

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Sincerely,

Francis Kinney