



Town of Plainville
Police Department

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Edward M. Merrick, Jr.
Chief of Police

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

RE: FCC 02-55 – *Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band*

Secretary Dortch,

Plainville is a small, rural town in Northeast Massachusetts that prides itself on being an ideal place for families. The Plainville Police Department is committed to ensuring that our town remains the safe community that people flock to. In a small town such as ours, communication is key – it makes policing a collaborative effort.

I write today to express my concern about radio interference in the 800 MHz spectrum; a problem that is affecting my police and fire colleagues state - and nationwide. Communication for public safety is an essential element in performing our job effectively and safely.

I join my public safety organization, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, in their support of the Consensus Plan. The Consensus Plan is the only proposed solution that will proactively eliminate the problem of interference, while also providing up to 25 percent more bandwidth to meet the growing communications needs of public safety.

This is a serious problem afflicting those who devote their lives to protecting others. Please help provide reliable communications capabilities, free of interference.

Regards,

Edward Merrick
Chief, Plainville Police Department

Copies to:
Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Senator John F. Kerry
Representative James P. McGovern