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TERRY KEEL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, AUSTIN
DISTRICT 47

January 14, 2004

The Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge your approval of the Consensus Plan to eliminate the growing interference problem in the 800 MHz band caused by the interleaving of both private and commercial cellular users in this band.

Prior to my election as State Representative, it was my privilege to serve as Travis County Sheriff and, before that, as Assistant Travis County District Attorney where I worked closely in the field with the Austin Police Department's Repeat Offender Unit. I know from firsthand experience how vital clear and reliable communications are for law enforcement and public safety providers. The current practice of allowing both public safety and commercial cellular uses in the 800 MHz band has led to interference problems with potentially deadly consequences for the public safety users. Unless this problem is resolved, it will continue to jeopardize the safety of emergency, law enforcement, and public safety personnel and compromise their ability to respond to the citizens they are sworn to protect and serve.

I support passage of the Consensus Plan because I believe it provides an effective solution to this problem, at no cost to the taxpayers, in a way that accommodates the needs of both public safety users and the cellular industry. I strongly encourage your favorable action on this plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Keel", written over a large, stylized graphic element that resembles a signature or a large letter 'T'.

Terry Keel

