

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



EDDIE RODRIGUEZ
FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT

January 20, 2004

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

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

Dear Chairman Powell,

As you know, our nation's first-responders are being placed at risk every day due to the interference that occurs between their communications systems and cellular networks. The FCC has been studying this problem and possible solutions to resolve this critical problem for more than two years. Here it is now early 2004 and the FCC has still not acted. This delay is despite the fact that a comprehensive solution was presented to you nearly a year ago by a broad-based coalition of public safety and private wireless licensees. Every day this decision is delayed, our first-responders face additional and unnecessary risk.

The record in this proceeding clearly demonstrates that interference occurs because public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The result is potentially deadly interference, which causes garbled communications and prevents public safety officials from protecting the lives and property of the citizens and communities they serve.

The most comprehensive solution would be a separation of the licensees – and the disparate technologies they use - so public safety can rely on clear communications, free from interference. The more time it takes to separate these licensees, the more commercial systems will be built, and the propensity for interference grows.

The Consensus Plan achieves this separation, provides for additional spectrum to be made available

to public safety, and does so at no cost to public safety or the American taxpayer.

As representative of District 51 it is my responsibility to ensure the safety of more than 133,000 people. Please implement the Consensus Plan and help protect the safety of first responders and citizens in Texas, and throughout the country.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Rodriguez", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eddie Rodriguez
Member
Texas House of Representatives
District 51

CC:

Commissioner Abernathy
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Martin