



Michael A. McCormack
Sheriff

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Dukes County
Office of the Sheriff

P. O. Box 252
Edgartown, Massachusetts 02539



508-627-5328

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

February 13, 2004

WT Docket # 02-55

Dear Madame Secretary,

I am the Sheriff of Dukes County, Massachusetts and the President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association. Dukes County is located south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts and includes the six towns on the Island of Martha's Vineyard as well as the town of Gosnold, on Cuttyhunk, which is part of the Elizabeth Islands.

This is one of the fastest growing areas in Massachusetts and I take great pride in being a part of why people are drawn to this beautiful and safe place. In my five years as Sheriff and more than fifteen years in law enforcement, I know how important communications are to our operations and coordination. I therefore want to support my public safety colleagues throughout the United States who are struggling with radio interference.

I am pleased the National Sheriffs' Association has played a key role in the development of a much needed solution. It is called The Consensus Plan because it has incorporated the needs of all public safety branches from police to fire to EMS – and because of this has gained our widespread support. The Consensus Plan would comprehensively solve the problem of interference and provide more spectrum to public safety as we are quickly outgrowing our current allotment. This Plan is completely privately funded which is important for local public safety agencies that don't have the funding to cover such costs.

No one can argue that highly reliable communications for public safety professionals does not save lives. There is a solution available, but we

now look to the FCC to implement it. I understand many corporate interests have complicated this issue, so I urge you to not get bogged down by these distractions and focus on what's truly important. Our nation's public safety officials need your help to provide first-class protection and service to the American public. Please help them to do so by proactively eliminating radio interference through The Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. McCormack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheriff Michael A. McCormack
Dukes County Sheriffs Department
President of Massachusetts Sheriffs Association

CC: The Honorable Bill Delahunt
The Honorable Edward Kennedy