



Town of Marion

Police Department

Lincoln W. Miller
Chief of Police

February 24, 2004

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

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

Dear Madame Secretary:

The mission of the Marion Police Department is to provide residents with the highest quality of law enforcement services available. The twenty-five officers representing our department strive to professionally and capably serve the community of Marion, a small town located in southeastern Massachusetts that captures the essence and heart of New England.

Even though we do not have the same type of logistical needs as a city the size of Boston, communications remain a critical component in our ability to keep Marion a safe and enjoyable place to live. I have been hearing of the communications hardships police and other first responders have been experiencing in Massachusetts and around the country due to radio interference. Many would agree that a field officer's most essential piece of equipment is their radio. Radio interference can leave officers without options, directions, and instructions – which can put their lives and lives of others at risk.

The Consensus Plan has been supported by so many public safety agencies and organizations because it virtually eliminates interference in a permanent way, provides public safety with additional spectrum, and is fully funded. The Marion Police Department is proud to stand beside our public safety brethren to support this comprehensive plan.

I appreciate the fact you and your fellow Commissioners want to make sure you understand the issue completely and make the appropriate decision, but this is an issue that cannot be put off any longer. Please make public safety radio interference a priority. Police and other first responders need a permanent

solution and we are looking to you. Don't cut any corners by letting ineffective and piecemeal mitigation tactics remain in place – the problem needs to be solved permanently. And only The Consensus Plan achieves this. Please make a decision for public safety and implement The Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lincoln W. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Lincoln W. Miller
Chief of Police

CC: The Honorable Edward Kennedy
The Honorable John Kerry
The Honorable Barney Frank