

**KATE BROWN**

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17 March 2004

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

Re: Support for the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment  
*Ex parte*, WT 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

Two years is long enough. It is time for the Commission to adopt the Consensus Plan.

Since 9/11, cities, counties and fire districts all across America have been asked to do more to assist the federal government to help make our homeland more secure. Most of the resources necessary to do this have not been supplied by the federal government, and in Oregon as in many other states, state and local governments have not had extra resources to support homeland security activities. This has meant that the resources necessary to carry out local homeland security actions have had to be diverted from other responsibilities of local government, most of which were already stretched thin.

The Commission is considering other proposals that either (1) would not fix the interference issues confronted by public safety personnel or (2) would require local taxpayers to bear nearly the entire cost of resolving those issues.

To do so would add insult to injury.

The FCC did not directly cause the interference problems that have arisen in the last few years. But the interference exists and must be dealt with. Under the current system, tacitly approved by the Commission, continuing interference degrades the investments that local taxpayers have made in 800 MHz systems.

The FCC has now faces a choice. If it adopts the Consensus Plan, it will put most of the financial burden for fixing the interference problem on Nextel, which has voluntarily agreed to shoulder that burden. If the Commission does not adopt the Consensus Plan, it will put the burden on local citizens and taxpayers, either through degraded service or increased financial costs.

Two years is long enough. On behalf of my constituents and police and fire personnel across Oregon, I request that the Commission adopt the Consensus Plan now.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Brown", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate Brown