

April 7, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to you regarding Nextel's "Consensus Plan" which is currently being reviewed by the FCC. As I understand it this plan purports to address interference problems between Nextel cellular telephone service and public safety 800 Megahertz radio systems. While we agree in concept with the principle of that plan we have great concern regarding Nextel's provision regarding the reimbursement of costs. It is my understanding that the "Consensus Plan" offers \$700 million to public safety organizations nationwide for direct expenses related to the "rebanding" of their systems.

The State of Connecticut, Department of Public Safety, operates a trunked 800 Megahertz radio system which provides critical public safety communications for the Connecticut State Police and numerous other municipal public safety organizations. Our radio system is a well-developed system with 62 sites, providing statewide emergency communications capabilities. Given that the \$700 million must be divided amongst all 800 Megahertz users nationwide it is apparent that the Connecticut share for reimbursement would fall far short of the dollars needed to implement this plan. Additionally, it is my understanding that public safety agencies might be expected to expend money with no guarantee of any reimbursement.

While we understand and concur with the need to resolve spectrum interference problems in the 800 Megahertz band, we are compelled to express our deep concern regarding the potential for additional costs and possible interruption of radio operations under Nextel's "Consensus Plan". It is these concerns that prompts me to request that any plan approved by the FCC must provide for an implementation and funding process that will ensure no disruption in public safety communications and no economic hardship to the current users.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this issue. Should you have any questions please feel free to call me at (860) 685-8180.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Carpenter
LIEUTENANT COLONEL

RJC:md