



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

BEVERLY J. SHERWOOD
POST OFFICE BOX 2014
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22604
TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

ORIGINAL

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MILITIA, POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY (CHAIRMAN)
APPROPRIATIONS
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

January 29, 2004

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Public Safety Interference in the 800 MHz Band (Docket # WT 02-55)

Secretary Dortch

The issue of 800 MHz interference is a growing problem. It is of great concern to me that first responders in Virginia are struggling to reliably communicate with each other due to garbled connections or lost calls. As chair of Virginia's House of Delegates Committee on Militia and Police, I am acutely aware of the need for clear and immediate communication among federal, state and local first responders.

First responders have dedicated their lives to protecting the lives of others. It seems only appropriate that we do everything possible to eliminate this dangerous problem. I understand that for the last two years the Commission has dedicated itself to finding a resolution. While I applaud your commitment to this matter, I ask that you take immediate action.

The public safety community has resolutely voiced their support of the Consensus Plan. This Plan will permanently solve the problem of interference and provide mission critical spectrum for public safety's growing communications needs. Equally important for first responders and the public, this effort is completely privately funded.

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

Page 2
Ms Marlene Dortch, Secretary
January 29, 2004

When the safety and effectiveness of first responders is in jeopardy, we need to act without delay. The Consensus Plan offers a comprehensive and proactive solution to this troubling problem. I urge the Commission to act expeditiously and implement the Consensus Plan. Public safety is simply too important to not do so.

Your consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly J. Sherwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Beverly J. Sherwood, Delegate
Virginia House of Delegates

BJS/es