



Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

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GOVERNOR

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HENRY L. WHITEHORN, COLONEL
DEPUTY SECRETARY, PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES
SUPERINTENDENT, OFFICE OF STATE POLICE

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

RE: WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to express my concern regarding an important issue that profoundly impacts the State of Louisiana and our country. The issue is public safety radio interference – a problem in desperate need of a solution. Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The problem: the technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless are incompatible with one another as neighbors. The result: dangerous interference, which causes garbled communications and prevents public safety officials from doing their jobs.

Interference mitigation is costly and drains valuable resources from state and local governments. I urge you not to implement any solution which would place the burden of cost on state or local governments.

The Consensus Plan, currently under the Commission's consideration, would realign the current jumbled licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. By implementing this plan, public safety interference will be virtually eliminated. Also, public safety will receive additional, critical spectrum for future communications needs.

The Consensus Plan is the only proactive and comprehensive solution to the dangerous problem of public safety interference. Please support the public safety community. The only solution to the problem is separating the interfering technologies. This must be done in such a fashion that protects public safety systems, provides additional spectrum to public safety and does so without funding from state, local or federal tax dollars.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Whitehorn, Colonel
Superintendent

HLW/JTB:msm