

Dockets
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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CN9200493

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

92-9

Honorable Steven C. Gunderson
House of Representatives
2235 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515-4903

Dear Congressman Gunderson:

Your letter to Chairman Sikes has been referred to me for reply. Your constituent, Lieutenant Michael Knoll of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, expressed concern to you about the financial hardship that the proposed reallocation of 2 GHz microwave spectrum could cause to his community.

On January 16, 1992, the Commission proposed to reallocate 2 GHz spectrum but to exempt all state and local agency operations from the effects of the reallocation. Under the proposal, state and local agencies such as the County of Pierce would be permitted to continue operation of their current systems on the same basis as they now operate. A copy of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket No. 92-9 is enclosed.

The Commission proposed to reallocate 2 GHz spectrum from other licensees for use by providers of emerging technologies. The proposal also would permit marketplace negotiations to encourage a timely transfer of spectrum. Such negotiations could permit current users to modernize their equipment and move to other microwave frequencies at no financial cost. If they choose, public service users could negotiate such a transfer even though they are not required to move their operations.

I want to reiterate that under the Commission's proposal, the County of Pierce, because it qualifies as a local government agency, would be permitted to continue its existing operations. Please be assured that your constituent's concerns will be taken into account before a final determination is made, and for that purpose, I am making Lt. Knoll's letter part of the record in ET Docket No. 92-9.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Stanley
Chief Engineer

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STEVE GUNDERSON
3D DISTRICT, WISCONSIN
CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP



MEMBER:
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
EDUCATION AND LABOR
COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4903

OKT
90-314

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February 12, 1992

493

The Honorable Alfred Sikes
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

Enclosed, please find a copy of a letter from Mr. Michael Knoll, a constituent of mine. Mr. Knoll is concerned about the proposed reallocation of microwave spectrum. I would greatly appreciate a review and a response to his comments.

Thank you for your kind and quick attention in this matter. If you have any questions please contact me.

Best regards,

Steve Gunderson
Member of Congress

SG:jwf
Enclosure



JAMES W. HINES
SHERIFF

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OFFICE OF
SHERIFF OF PIERCE COUNTY

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Ellsworth, WI 54011

TELEPHONE 715 273-5051

January 9, 1992

Mr. Steve Gunderson
Member of Congress
227 Cannon House Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: F.C.C. Docket 90-314

Dear Congressman Gunderson:

I am writing to you to express my concern regarding proposed actions of the Federal Communications Commission. The F.C.C. is currently working with a number of far reaching, complex issues. Two issues that are being publicly discussed are reallocation of portions of the microwave spectrum and refarming the land mobile radio spectrum (FCC PR Docket No. 91-170). The latter initiative is in its early stages, which precludes any substantive remarks on my part.

I do have specific concerns regarding the proposed reallocation of microwave spectrum (FCC Docket No. 90-314). The proposed actions are simple. It is proposed that the F.C.C. reallocate the use of the 1.8 Ghz to 2.2 Ghz frequency band, from its current application to usage by Personal Communications Systems (PCS). Currently, these bands are used by state and local governments for fire, police, and medical emergency communications and by petroleum, natural gas, railroad and utility companies for operational safety. If the reallocation were to happen and if the F.C.C. then required current users of that spectrum to abandon that usage, the effects felt by the citizens of Pierce County would be substantial, with similar effect occurring across the United States.

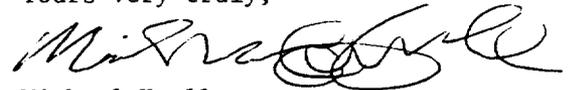
The County of Pierce has recently constructed a microwave radio system for the purposes of police, fire and medical emergency communications. This new system operates in the 2.0 Ghz portion of the microwave spectrum. This new system involved nearly a decade of effort in its move from the planning stages to final completion. This new system cost the citizens of Pierce County nearly \$1,000,000.00 in local tax dollars. The citizens of Pierce County depend on this new system for the safe and efficient coordination and delivery of critical core services. If the County of Pierce were compelled to abandon the use of our 2.0 Ghz microwave system, we would have to replace it with a 6.0 Ghz microwave system. The cost to do so would be at least \$500,000.00, again coming from local tax dollars. I think it is unreasonable to ask the citizens of Pierce County to respend dollars for a replacement microwave system.

F.C.C. Docket 90-314
January 9, 1992
Page Two

The proposed construction of a Personal Communications Systems network, on a national basis, is an ambitious and costly project. I am not saying that the project should not be allowed. I am saying that there are hidden costs that must not be overlooked. The Pierce County microwave system exists for the protection of all citizens in Pierce County. Emergency Service providers do not have the benefit of methods to increase profit to offset increased operating costs. We must generate our operating monies through the tax levy. If there is enough "value" in the end use of the P.C.S. network, then perhaps there is enough to cover the cost, dollar for dollar, for the lost usage of existing Public Safety systems.

I would like to add that I contacted your office by telephone in regard to this matter last month. I was pleased by the way your staff responded to these concerns.

Yours very truly,



Michael Knoll
Lieutenant
Pierce County Sheriff's Dept.

MK/kjh