

M. Anne Swanson
+1 202 776 2534
aswanson@cooley.com

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

September 21, 2016

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

RE: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation
(WT Docket Nos. 10-119, 98-182; RM-9222, RM-10762, and RM-10844)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 19, 2016, Scott Burgett, Director, GNSS and Software Technology of Garmin International, Inc. ("Garmin"); Jason Rademacher, of this office; and I met with Erin McGrath, Legal Advisor – Wireless, Public Safety and International, to Commissioner Michael O'Rielly.

In the meeting, Mr. Burgett reviewed the points set forth in the attached outline, which was provided at the meeting. Mr. Burgett pointed out that Garmin is unaware of any reports of interference from operation of GMRS/FRS devices that Garmin currently markets, and that, based on their operation, no reason exists for some of the more restrictive rules at issue in the proceeding. To the contrary, as the record shows, users of Garmin equipment, particularly in the public safety community, support Garmin's positions in this docket.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules, an electronic copy of this letter is being filed for inclusion in each of the above-referenced dockets. A copy of this letter is being provided by email to Ms. McGrath. If you have any questions about this filing, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



M. Anne Swanson
Counsel to Garmin

Attachment
cc (via email): Erin McGrath, Esquire

GARMIN BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE FCC ADOPT CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN STREAMLINING THE PERSONAL RADIO SERVICE RULES
(WT Dkt. Nos. 10-119 and 98-182; RM-9222, RM-10762, RM-10844)

September 19, 2016

- I. The FCC Should Not Cap the Permissible Power Level of Portable GMRS Devices at 2 Watts ERP
- Users, particularly search-and-rescue personnel, absolutely need the stronger, more reliable, and higher quality signals produced by very popular lines of 5-watt GMRS devices; lower power levels would degrade service when maintaining communication is crucial
 - Garmin's own SAR tests on 5-watt devices have not shown any unacceptable radiation levels, which is to be expected given that the devices operate with short communications intervals and utilize relatively low frequencies
 - Garmin does not oppose future SAR testing of such devices
- II. The Rulemaking Record Conclusively Supports Allowing GPS and Text Data Transmissions on GMRS Channels
- For a dozen years, the FCC has allowed the transmission of GPS information and text messages on certain FRS channels; the safety of life and other benefits of such transmissions (*e.g.*, locating lost individuals) should be extended by rule to GMRS, which has a wider range
 - Pursuant to waivers, Garmin since 2004 has sold over 600,000 GPS-enabled devices that operate over GMRS frequencies, and no interference has been reported
 - Given the clear public interest benefits, the FCC should codify its proposal to permit the transmission over GMRS frequencies of GPS information and text messages using emission type F2D in digital bursts of not more than one second
- III. The FCC Should Confirm Its Existing Policy of Allowing FRS/GMRS Combination Radios
- Combination FRS/GMRS radios are very popular with public safety personnel and with consumers
 - The record is devoid of any evidence that indicates FRS/GMRS combination radios cause interference to GMRS or other services
 - If the Commission has eligibility concerns related to alien or other ownership issues involving particular services, the FCC should address that problem by service-specific rules, rather than prohibiting FRS/GMRS combination radios

IV. Narrowbanding GMRS Channels Would Diminish Service Quality Without Any Accompanying Public Interest Benefit

- The Commission's narrowbanding proposal is not accompanied by any articulated need for or evidence supporting the proposal, such as concerns over reducing interference
- Narrowbanding would weaken GMRS and make it a less robust service
- To ensure signal quality and reliability, the FCC should clarify that data transmissions using the F2D emissions type have an authorized bandwidth of 20 kHz, as voice already does; the FCC should adopt a uniform 20 kHz authorized bandwidth for GMRS data and voice
- If the FCC does decide narrowbanding is appropriate:
 - Changes should not become effective until at least 12 months following the new rule's finality; and
 - The FCC should grandfather use of existing equipment by consumers

V. The FCC Needs To Address Confusion Regarding Analog Voice Scrambling

- The FCC should allow simple voice inversion, or analog voice scrambling
- Analog voice scrambling is not "coding" and does not make communications "secret"; the FCC should re-evaluate past KDBI pronouncements equating the two features
- If the Commission decides to prohibit analog voice scrambling, it should "grandfather" existing units and provide that any prohibition on marketing GRMS or FRS radios with analog voice scrambling does not become effective until at least 12 months following the new rule's finality