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February 25, 1997

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BY HAND

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communication in WT Docket 96-86

Dear Mr. Caton:

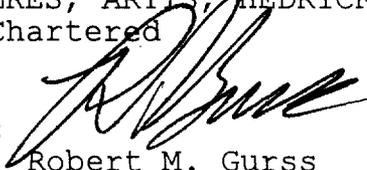
Enclosed herewith for filing with the Commission are two copies of a letter submitted to Chairman Hundt, each of the other Commissioners, and to the Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau with reference to the above-referenced proceeding.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

WILKES, ARTIS, HEDRICK & LANE,
Chartered

By:



Robert M. Gurss

Counsel for APCO

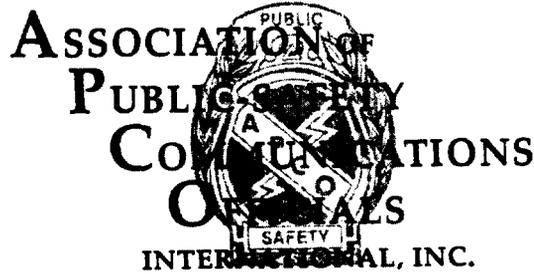
Enclosures

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket 96-86

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Nevada Department of Transportation ("Nevada DOT") has filed Reply Comments in the above-referenced proceeding addressing several issues, including the relative benefits of the Project 25 standard for public safety digital radio equipment. Most of the issues raised by Nevada DOT have been fully addressed by APCO and other parties in this proceeding. However, there is one point which does require a brief response to ensure that the record in this proceeding is correct.

Nevada DOT appears to misunderstand who constitutes Project 25, and how its decisions are made. Nevada DOT suggests that standards should not be selected by "associations such as APCO, which are comprised mainly of dispatchers and non-technical managers." First, that characterization of APCO is incomplete, as a substantial number of APCO members are engineers and technicians. Second, and more importantly, the standard was not selected by APCO. Rather it was selected by the Project 25 Steering Committee, which consists of technically trained individuals representing each of the sponsoring entities, including APCO, the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors ("NASTD") and agencies of the Federal Government. Furthermore, the Project 25 standards were not selected in a vacuum. The Telecommunications Industry Association ("TIA") has been a key player in the Project 25 process, and all of the Project 25 standards were based on TIA committee recommendations.

The Honorable Reed Hundt
February 25, 1997
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Please contact me or our counsel in Washington, Robert Gurss, at (202) 457-7329, should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marilyn Ward".

Marilyn Ward, President

cc: All Commissioners
Ms. Michele Farquhar, FCC WTB
Director, Nevada Department of Transportation