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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Information Technology

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Michael E. Thomas
Deputy Secretary of
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January 25, 1999

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N. W., Room 222
Washington, D. C. 20554

SUBJECT: WT Docket No. 96-86
Public Safety Use of 746-806 MHz Band

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Department of Information Technology within the Commonwealth of Virginia is charged with providing management and overview of the communications resources to the state. Based on this, the Department of Information Technology agrees with the above Docket which allows states to take over the administration of the 2.6 and 8.8 MHz of 700 MHz spectrum, rather than use the Regional Planning Committees (RPC). The Commonwealth has both the policy and the technical expertise to effectively and efficiently determine how best to use these frequencies for public safety operations throughout the state. Currently, Virginia has two RPC's which are not a state organization and do not have the resources necessary to coordinate with all of the affected public safety organizations for statewide frequency assignments.

Therefore, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Information Technology recommends that both the 2.6 MHz of spectrum designated as the Nationwide Interoperability Spectrum and under the Third Notice of Proposed Rule Making that the 8.8 MHz of spectrum designated as Reserve Spectrum be allocated to the Commonwealth. We would further recommend that both allocations be licensed directly to the Governor of the State of Virginia with administration by the Department of Information Technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Thomas".

Michael E. Thomas
Deputy Secretary of Technology

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