

# HOUSTON 2-WAY RADIO

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Authorized Two-Way  
Radio Dealer

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September 22, 1999

Mr. Thomas J. Sugrue,  
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Suite 3-C252  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Fining – WT Docket No. 99-168

Dear Mr. Sugrue:

Our company, Houston 2-Way Radio, provides two-way radio dispatch systems to end users throughout the greater Houston area. We employ 28 people with an annual payroll of \$1.2 million. We sell and service some 3,500 customers in the following markets: petrochemical, manufacturing, construction and construction related services, service companies, trucking and transportation and media and entertainment. These companies use two-way radio for three main reasons; safety, security and the coordination of people and materials. Many of our customers are quite concerned about the availability, or lack thereof, of spectrum for their two-way radio needs now and in the future.

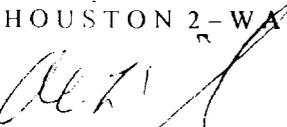
Many in Congress and other governmental agencies believe that the public and business will be served just fine by technologies such as cellular, PCS, Nextel and other types of telephony communications. In business this is just not so. Can you imagine a petrochemical facility such as a large refinery trying to coordinate their emergency personnel with the one-to-one type of communications that cellular telephones provide? I know that our customers just shiver at the thought that they will lose their ability to operate systems, which offer a one-to-many type of dispatch--the type of instantaneous dispatch that two-way radio offers. There is truly a need for access to spectrum for private wireless. It is that simple!

I have spent the last 20 years in the radio communications industry and as a board member of both the American Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) and the Council of Independent Communications Suppliers (CICS) I am aware of the changing world we must adapt to and operate in. Auctions and/or lease fees for spectrum will be the norm in the future. I know it and our customers accept it. So, when I heard about the auction of spectrum in the 746-806 MHz band, I felt a certain amount of excitement, however most of our customers (and our company as well) are ill equipped to compete for spectrum with the large, well-financed commercial carriers. We may very well be denied access to this important resource. Therefore, the concept of a "band manager" who would help all of us better manage and use this spectrum resource is a sound one. The "band manager" could deploy the resource piece by piece as needed and charge appropriately. This method of spectrum allocation may meet everyone's needs fairly, honestly and timely. I know that my company and our customers would support it.

Thank you for your sincere interest in my comments and for the careful consideration I know you and the Federal Communications Commission will give to this correspondence.

Sincerely,

HOUSTON 2-WAY RADIO

  
Alan L. VanVelkinburgh  
President

Cc: Ms. Magalie Romas Salas, Secretary

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