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CUNNINGHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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MAY 7 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 00-32

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing you on behalf of the City/County/State of the Cunningham Fire District to express our concern about the FCC's intension to auction 50 MHz of spectrum in the 4940-4990 MHz (4.9 GHz) band, rather than allocating this critically needed spectrum to public safety for new broadband public safety applications.

The Cunningham Fire District is a member of the United Fire Dispatch Authority. The United Fire Dispatch Authority includes fire agencies in Southern Arapahoe and the entire Douglas County Colorado region. The Authority partners with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. As a regional communications center, we strive to provide appropriate reliable emergency communication services for one of the fastest growing populations in the United States. The current RF bandwidth in this region is full and there are new emerging broadband technologies and applications appearing on the horizon that will require significantly wider bandwidths than this allocation.

Back in 1996, the public safety community identified the need for 95 MHz of additional spectrum to meet our communications needs over the next ten years. Of this amount, the greatest need will be for advanced wideband and broadband technologies. To date, the FCC has allocated 24 MHz to public safety users in the new 746 MHz band. There are new emerging broadband technologies and applications appearing on the horizon that will require significantly wider bandwidths than this allocation.

Several of our representative public safety organizations, including APCO, IACP, and Major Cities Chiefs, have recently urged the FCC to allocate 50 MHz at 4.9 GHz for broadband public safety applications.

We fully support the above public safety organizations and we also urge you and the Commission to recognize our broadband spectrum needs and allocate this much needed 4.9 GHz band to the public safety community. Obtaining this spectrum is a critical step for public safety agencies such as ours to access these new advanced broadband solutions for our mission critical applications.

Sincerely,

Don M. Mabuchi, Div. Chief
Signature and Title

Copy to:
Office of the Secretary
Ms. Magalie Roman Sallas
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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