



DON SIEGELMAN
GOVERNOR

LEE HELMS
ACTING DIRECTOR

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

STATE OF ALABAMA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

5898 COUNTY ROAD 41 • P.O. DRAWER 2160 • CLANTON, ALABAMA 35046-2160
(205) 280-2200 FAX # (205) 280-2495

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 17, 2002

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

**Re: Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band
WT Docket No. 02-55**

I am writing on behalf of Alabama Emergency Management Agency to set forth our support of Southern LINC in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. Alabama EMA provides emergency preparedness and response for the State of Alabama. In providing that service, we utilize Southern LINC's digital wireless communications network.

Our understanding is that in the above-referenced proceeding, the Commission is reviewing the causes of, and possible solutions for, interference to public safety entities in the 800 MHz band. Southern's network operates in the 800 MHz band, and it is concerned that the Commission might realign the band such that its spectrum holdings, and thus its network, could be compromised. To avoid that, Southern has proposed a plan that would resolve interference to public safety entities but would not compromise Southern's system (or any other 800 MHz users' systems).

Alabama EMA understands and strongly supports the communications needs of public safety entities that have their own private wireless communications systems in the 800 MHz band. We understand the desire of such entities to avoid harmful interference to their systems. The Federal Communications Commission should, to the extent necessary, take steps to alleviate such interference.

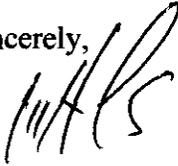
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Unlike most other commercial providers, Southern LINC provides combined dispatch and interconnected service in the same handset, a feature that we consider highly important. Also important is that Southern LINC's network comprehensively covers our jurisdiction and that its service is highly reliable and of high quality. Alabama EMA relies on Southern LINC for important emergency response communications. We could not tolerate its service being shut-off, interrupted, or otherwise compromised.

Alabama EMA has not studied all the particular interference resolution proposals that have been submitted to the Commission and does not have an opinion as to which plan the Commission should adopt. However, we strongly supports the continued vitality of Southern LINC, and for that reason we urge the Commission not to adopt a plan that would compromise Southern LINC's network. Southern LINC is a strong supporter and ally of the public safety community, and its ability to continue to provide wireless communications to public safety entities must not be jeopardized.

Thank you for considering our position on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Helms', written in a cursive style.

Lee Helms, Acting Director

cc: Thomas J. Sugrue, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Mr. Michael J. Wilhelm, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau