



LAND MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room 8-B201
Washington D.C. 20554

Re: Spectrum Policy Task Force Report;
ET Docket No. 02-135

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) is a non-profit association of organizations representing virtually all users of land mobile radio systems, providers of land mobile services, and manufacturers of land mobile radio equipment. LMCC acts with the consensus, and on behalf of, the vast majority of public safety, business, industrial, private, commercial and land transportation radio users, as well as a diversity of land mobile service providers and equipment manufacturers. A list of our member organizations is provided at the end of this letter.

LMCC has followed with keen interest the activities of the Spectrum Policy Task Force since its formation in June 2002. Spectrum is the lifeblood of LMCC's member constituents that operate in the private land mobile radio services (PLMRS) regulated by the Commission. As such, the Commission's policies that affect the allocation and regulation of spectrum are of paramount importance to LMCC.

The focus of much of the Commission's recent efforts in the area of spectrum policy appears to be on government and commercial users of the spectrum. But LMCC would like to point out that government and commercial users are *not* the only users of the spectrum. Indeed, private wireless licensees are the largest constituency group served by the Commission. The existing PLMR frequency bands are quite likely the most heavily-used of any of the bands under the Commission's jurisdiction. There are over 1,000,000 licensed stations and well over 13,000,000 radio transmitters currently operating in the PLMRS by more than 275,000 American companies, with an imbedded investment of infrastructure well exceeding 25 billion dollars. Nearly all of the Fortune 500 companies have at least one radio system licensed in the PLMRS.

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Private wireless communications systems have a profound effect on the daily lives of all Americans. Utilities and pipelines use private wireless not only to ensure reliable restoration of power and water to their customers, but also to control the nation's power, gas and water generation and distribution systems. Manufacturers use private wireless to improve productivity, profitability, and delivery of their products. Transportation industries use private wireless to ensure safe dispatch and routing of airplanes, trains, trucks and taxicabs. Millions of small businesses use private wireless to reduce costs and improve service to their customers. Private radio systems are used by companies in virtually any and every industry including: agriculture, construction, health care, hospitality, film and video production, dockside cargo handling, forestry, mining, and countless others. Private systems play a unique and vital role in support of our nation's economic and industrial sectors. Of course, the private land mobile services are crucial to the country's mission critical public safety services including police, fire, emergency medical, and highway maintenance.

While third-party commercial providers may serve the limited communications needs of some small businesses and some administrative needs of public safety agencies, they cannot meet the majority of private wireless users' operational needs. Large PLMRS users have specialized communications needs, unique coverage areas, and system reliability needs too critical to rely on third-party providers. Private users require instantaneous communications at the push of a button, without having to dial ten digits. They require priority access, especially in times of emergencies, beyond what commercial providers may be willing to provide. They require coverage in areas not served by commercial providers. They experience peak usage patterns that can overwhelm commercial systems. Utilizing their own internal private wireless systems allows industry to increase efficiency, productivity, and safety, thereby contributing to the benefit of the national economy and effectively competing in the global marketplace. There will always be a need for dedicated internal-use systems due to the critical nature and specialized capability requirements of their communications.

Given the vast number of private wireless users and the positive effect they have on everyday life, LMCC respectfully suggests that no forthcoming spectrum policy can be considered truly comprehensive without taking into consideration the needs of the private land mobile community. LMCC would be eager to meet with the Spectrum Policy Task Force to answer any questions it might have about the private wireless services and their rightful place on the spectrum landscape.

Sincerely,


Larry A. Miller
President

cc: FCC Secretary

LMCC MEMBERSHIP

Aeronautical Radio, Inc. (ARTNC)

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

American Automobile Association (AAA)

American Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA)

American Petroleum Institute (API)

Association of American Railroads (AAR)

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc. (APCO)

Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA)

Forest Industries Telecommunications (FIT)

Forestry-Conservation Communications Association (FCCA)

Industrial Telecommunications Association, Inc. (ITA)

Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America)

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA)

International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)

MRFAC, Inc. (MRFAC)

National Association of State Foresters (NASF)

Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA)

Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

United Telecom Council (UTC)