



# Maine Chiefs of Police Association

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Honorable Kevin Martin, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

IB Docket No. 05-221

Dear Chairman Martin:

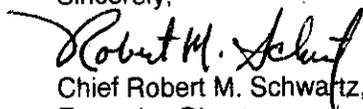
Hurricanes Katrina & Rita has demonstrated that our nation's Homeland Security communications systems are susceptible to widespread failure in light of natural and other disasters. In every case of widespread failure our land based communications system, another form of communications is always available, satellite. However, very expensive user handsets and high service fees make today's satellite systems prohibitively costly for public safety agencies.

The Maine Chiefs of Police Association think it is imperative that we facilitate a cost effective, secure, widespread, and reliable public safety network. In order to overcome the high costs typically associated with mobile satellite systems, we are looking forward to the availability of advanced hybrid satellite/terrestrial systems. A hybrid network will allow a cell phone user to use a cell phone on existing cell towers or to use a satellite network if the cell phone network is inoperative.

Current licenses will be able to deliver both affordable commercial mobile satellite service to millions of Americans in rural and underserved areas, and offer a backup communications system should our Homeland Security system fail. However, in order to provide both commercial service and act as a secondary communications system in the event of a communications failure, current licensees must be given adequate bandwidth.

As you move forward with the distribution of spectrum. We urge the commission to allocate 20 MHz of 2GHz MSS spectrum on a pro rata basis to TMI/TerreStar Networks, Inc and ICO Satellite Services respectively. This communications solution would help to provide the last line of defense for any emergencies that could arise, natural or otherwise, in a cost effective and secure manner.

Sincerely,

  
Chief Robert M. Schwartz, Ret.  
Executive Director

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