

Oregon

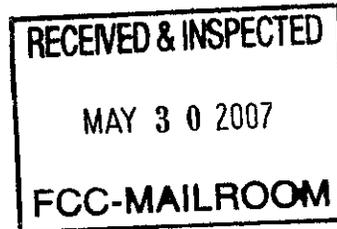
Fire Chiefs' Association

727 Center Street NE #300 Salem, OR 97301

(888) 846-3741
(503) 363-7893 fax
ofca@ofca.org
www.ofca.org

May 23, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554



RE: PS Docket No. 07-8; CC Docket No. 94-102; WT Docket Nos. 03-264, 06-150, 06-169 and 96-86; and EB Docket No. 06-119

Chairman Martin:

The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) proudly supports Oregon's diverse fire service by advocating for the common needs of fire chiefs and administrative officers throughout the state. For that reason, we urge the FCC to place Public Safety's interests first in the upcoming 700 MHz auction to help us build a National Public Safety Broadband Network.

A seamless, wireless, broadband public safety radio communications network with sufficient and priority access for data transmissions is critical for Public Safety to protect and save lives. Creating a National Public Safety Broadband Network will increase the quantity of available frequencies for first responder data communications and provide an opportunity to augment and back-up mission critical land-mobile voice communications.

The OFCA joins with its allied professional associations in requesting that at least 10MHz of the 700MHz band currently scheduled for auction by the FCC under the DTV transition act should be made available under rules that require the winner of the auction to have a binding agreement with Public Safety for its participation in the National Public Safety Broadband Network as a prerequisite to receiving their license.

Furthermore, it is critical that Public Safety professionals govern the National Public Safety Broadband Network. In placing Public Safety in charge, we ask the FCC to license Public Safety's spectrum to a stand-alone entity consisting of Public Safety leaders who will control the network and ensure it will be built to the standards of reliability and redundancy that Public Safety requires. This network should place the highest priority on responders' diverse needs and should be a self-sustaining enterprise that can be built out into rural and underserved areas to give responders access to a single, universal system no matter where they are responding.

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Finally, responders across the nation must have access to a satellite overlay to extend Public Safety's reach to areas where terrestrial build is not economic and to serve as a back-up in times of disasters when existing infrastructures are compromised or unavailable. The system must be kept "evergreen" to stay competitive on the commercial side and to ensure access to the latest communication devices and exposure to the highest level of technology for public safety users.

Optimally, the service rules should only permit commercial use of the network at the discretion of the public safety licensee and only if such use does not harm the network or degrade the quality of service to public safety users. Additionally, steps should be taken to ensure that public safety has the right to negotiate a public-private partnership with any commercial entity regardless of the outcome of the commercial auction.

The OFCA applauds the FCC for taking this important step towards creation of the National Public Safety Broadband Network. We urge the Commission to consider Public Safety interests in the highest priority throughout the rules-crafting process.

Respectfully,

John F. Fowler

John F. Fowler, President
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Copies to: The Honorable Ron Wyden, U.S. Senate
 The Honorable Gordon Smith, U.S. Senate
 The Honorable Greg Walden, U.S. Representative
 The Honorable Darlene Hooley, U.S. Representative
 The Honorable Michael J. Copps, FCC Commissioner
 The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, FCC Commissioner
 The Honorable Deborah Tate, FCC Commissioner
 The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, FCC Commissioner
 Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Secretary

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