

July 9, 2007

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The Honorable Kevin Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Re: Written *Ex Parte* Communication; WT Docket Nos. 06-150, 06-169, and 96-86; PS  
Docket No. 06-229

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing today to urge the Commission to take advantage of an historic opportunity to dramatically improve public safety communications for all first responders. The FCC has the opportunity to designate at least 10 MHz of commercial spectrum (known as the "E Block") for a public/private broadband partnership. By doing this, the FCC can bring an end to the days when lives are lost because as first responder agencies cannot effectively communicate with each other.

There are two major obstacles that have hampered efforts to bring about a nationwide, interoperable broadband network for public safety. First, the funds simply aren't there. Second, public safety needs more spectrum than it has to make a broadband network work. The plan proposed by Frontline Wireless solves both of these problems by providing for a buildout of the network with private capital and a doubling of spectrum available to first responders and other public safety officials when it's needed most. This network would be truly national in scope, serving 99 percent of the U.S. population, but through modern technology would allow local agencies substantial control.

The Frontline plan would create the network we need to bring public safety communications into the 21st Century. One commercial incumbent suggested that the U.S. public safety needs could be served by a network that leaves fully 25 percent of the U.S. population uncovered. That's certainly not the sort of "national" network that will make the American people safer. The stakes are too high to succumb to these and other claims that public safety's network will have to wait for another day. I encourage you to support Frontline Wireless' proposal for a public/private partnership to create a national, interoperable broadband network. This network would double the amount of spectrum available to public safety during emergencies.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Chad Minter  
Lane County Fire Chief  
Oregon

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