



APCO International

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March 13, 2009

The Honorable Michael Copps
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Cell Phone Jamming Equipment

Dear Chairman Copps:

APCO International urges the Commission to take aggressive enforcement action against entities that manufacture, import, market or use devices designed to interfere with wireless telephone or other radio communications in violation of Section 333 of the Communications Act. The Commission should also summarily dismiss requests for special temporary authority to test such devices. (A copy of this letter is being submitted in Docket 09-30, in which the Commission seeks comments on such a request.)

There appear to be several companies that are attempting to market products that block wireless telephone use (e.g., <http://www.thesignaljammer.com>). Aside from prisons (the subject of the pending STA request), such devices are marketed for use in churches, concert halls, theaters, schools, libraries, shopping malls, public transportation, and restaurants. Indeed, some of the devices are intended for portable use and could be placed at any time in almost any public or private location.

APCO is deeply concerned that the use of these devices will block 9-1-1 calls from wireless telephones, creating a serious threat to the safety of life and property. In many communities, the majority of 9-1-1 calls are from wireless telephones. There is also a potential that these “cell phone jamming” devices could also interfere with public safety radio communications in adjacent frequency bands.

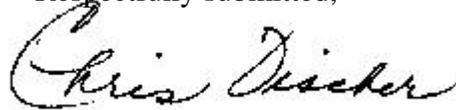
There is no question that the devices in question would violate Section 333, which provides that “no person shall willfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radio communication.” Therefore, APCO urges the Commission to (1) initiate aggressive enforcement actions against those who manufacture or market devices to block wireless telephone and other radio

communications, and (2) deny pending and future requests to “test” devices that would violate the Communications Act.

Some of the entities marketing blocking devices appear to be based overseas and sell to customers in the United States over the Internet. As that may deter effective enforcement actions, the Commission should also issue a Public Notice making clear that the use of devices to block cell phone and other radio communications is illegal in the United States.

We look forward to working with the Commission on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Chris Fischer
President