



**COUNTY OF GOOCHLAND
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March 16, 2009

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: PS Docket 09-19, Travelers' Information Service Provision of Localized Public Safety and Emergency Information Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 90.242 and 90.407, Petition for Ruling (filed Sept. 9, 2008)

COMMENTS OF GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

I write today on behalf of Goochland County, Virginia to express our comments regarding the Petition for Ruling, filed by the American Association of Information Radio Operators ("AAIRO") on September 9, 2008.¹ Goochland County strongly supports the AAIRO Petition.

In their Petition, the AAIRO seeks that:

a Ruling should [be] issue[d] that any message concerning the safety of life or protection of property that may affect any traveler or any individual in transit or soon to be in transit, may be transmitted on Travelers' Information Stations ("TIS"), at the sole discretion of officials authorized to operate such stations. Specifically, AAIRO seeks a Ruling that (1) weather reports, forecasts and similar forward looking information affecting traveler journeys is permissibly transmitted by TIS and (2) any emergency and safety information that has been, in good faith, determined by government officials in charge of TIS stations to provide traveler-relevant information, may be transmitted on TIS in the normal course.²

Goochland County believes it is in the best interests of the public to have a clarification of 47 C.F.R. § 90.242 to make it clear that licensed information radio station operators may broadcast any public safety message at any time that is deemed to further the protection of life and property. Travelers' Information Systems (TIS) are essential to allow the public access to information concerning road conditions, traffic hazards, travel advisories, Amber Alerts, 911 outage notices, natural disasters, public health warnings, terrorist threat levels, weather

¹ Travelers' Information Service Provision of Localized Public Safety and Emergency Information Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 90.242 and 90.407, Petition for Ruling (filed Sept. 9, 2008) (AAIRO Petition).

² AAIRO Petition at 9.

conditions and other civil defense notices. TIS enable the public to receive critical information free of charge, allowing important messages to reach a greater percentage of the public.

Goochland County agrees with the AAIRO's statement that "no reason exists to limit the public safety role TIS plays; proactive announcements are as important to lives and property as are instantaneous warnings."³ Access to TIS for public safety messages would positively affect the quality of life for the general public who live in or visit Goochland County.

Therefore, Goochland County respectfully requests that the FCC approve the AAIRO's Petition.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew R. McRoberts

County Attorney

ARM/agb

cc: Bill Cleveland, Director of Information Systems
Ken Brown, Chief, Goochland Co. Fire-Rescue Department
Paul Drumwright, Assistant to the County Administrator

³ Id at 8.