

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of )  
 )  
Use of Signal Boosters and Other Signal ) WT Docket No. 10-4  
Amplification Techniques Used With )  
Wireless Services )

**COMMENTS**

McLaughlin-Long Marketing, Inc. located in the state of Washington, pursuant to the Commission's Public Notice of January 6, 2010<sup>1</sup>, hereby respectfully submits its comment in the above-referenced proceeding.

**I. BACKGROUND**

McLaughlin-Long Marketing is a Manufacturers' Representative Company located in Battle Ground Washington. We represent some of the most respected names in the two-way communications industry and have done so with pride for over 20 years. From complete turnkey radio systems to land mobile radios, repeaters and accessories, we handle a range of communications products used by public safety organizations, state and local government agencies, and a variety of commercial business applications. The Northwest terrain can sometimes make communications difficult which is why we have sold a great number of vehicular repeaters into this territory. When portable coverage is hampered by terrain, a vehicular repeater becomes vital to the safety and well being of the officers and agencies that use them as well as the communities that they serve. One of our largest customers Oregon State Police continues to buy vehicular repeaters to improve radio communications across the state.

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<sup>1</sup> See Public Notice, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks Comment on Petitions Regarding the Use of Signal Boosters and Other Signal Amplification Techniques Used with Wireless Services, DA 10-14 (rel Jan. 6, 2010) ("Signal Booster Public Notice").

We sell units into many public safety agencies across the Northwest as well as Power companies such as Avista Power in Montana and are currently testing with BPA here in Washington.

## II. COMMENTS

SVR units are licensed pursuant to Section 90.247 of the Commission's Rules and although they have been able to operate under those guidelines for decades, the growing popularity of these units in our area is pushing these frequencies to the limit. Vehicle repeaters, when used VHF in-band, require a 2-5 MHz minimum frequency separation from mobile radio frequencies. As more and more agencies look to utilize these units to improve their radio coverage, the amount of available spectrum obviously gets smaller and smaller. This makes it difficult and frustrating for a lot of agencies to find the spectrum to put such improvements into place. We support Pyramid Communications and their suggestions for expanding vehicle repeater spectrum.

### A. 170–172 MHz Forest Firefighting and Conservation Frequencies – Section 90.265(c)

Although we have a large number of forests in the northwest region we believe that this spectrum could be opened up to encompass other public safety and metropolitan fire departments. While still being useful in fighting forest fires it could be utilized to fight fires in homes and building in many of the rural areas in our region. We agree with Pyramid that an extension of this operation would not negatively impact any primary users of the spectrum.

B. 173 MHz Public Safety/Business/Industrial Frequencies – **Section 90.20(d)(34)**

A lot is changing in the world of two-way communications and it is time for some of the old standards and restrictions to be looked at and changed to better facilitate these changes. With proper frequency coordination policies you can ensure that adjacent channel or existing user interference does not occur.

C. Hydrological/Meteorological Data Channels – **Section 90.265**

We agree with Pyramid that because vehicle repeaters are only used temporarily in and around an incident at low power that interference issues with existing users in this spectrum would be very unlikely.

Expanding this spectrum is very important for our area of the country. The terrain here makes vehicular repeaters a must have in a large portion of this territory. You don't have to go too far outside of the major metropolitan areas before you hit mountain ranges and large forests. VHF spectrum is essential in these areas. As populations continue to move into these areas and vehicular repeaters become more widely utilized, the need for more available spectrum will continue to grow. To continue to provide the proper Work needs to be done to ensure the availability of spectrum for the ever growing need for such equipment.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

McLaughlin-Long Marketing supports the comments made by Pyramid Communications regarding the expansion of spectrum available for public safety agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

McLaughlin-Long Marketing

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