



State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

March 29, 2010

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554-0005

Re: National Broadband Plan; Funding For 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Network

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On behalf of the State of New Mexico, I take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of the Federal Communications Commission in developing and recommending a National Broadband Plan to meet the communications needs of our nation as we move into the 21st century. As an applicant to provide statewide interoperable public safety broadband service on the national 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum, New Mexico is particularly interested in those portions of the plan that relate to the national Public Safety Broadband Network.

The State of New Mexico fully supports the Commission's proposal to seek funding of \$12 to \$16 billion dollars in grant money from Congress for the build out, operation and maintenance of the Public Safety Broadband Network. Without federal funding and state involvement it will be especially difficult, if not impossible, for rural states, such as New Mexico to complete and operate portions of the network. The Commission has proposed a truly visionary approach for construction and operation of the network and I trust that Congress will adopt this funding mechanism.

We also support the creation of the Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC) to ensure that all portions of the national network work together, so that first responders nationwide can communicate with one another seamlessly. We urge the Commission to work with public safety interest groups in the creation, development and operation of ERIC. Finally, we continue to believe that the best use of the 700 MHz D block spectrum is to reallocate this spectrum for public safety use on a nationwide basis.

Once again, I offer my appreciation to the Commission for its efforts on the National Broadband Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

BR/fl