

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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July 16, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communication Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file police officers from across the United States, I would like to thank and commend the Federal Communications Commission for its work on the promotion of a nationwide public safety interoperable broadband network.

The FCC is charged with promoting the widest possible deployment of communications services, ensuring the most efficient use of spectrum, and protecting and promoting vibrant competition in the marketplace. This includes services provided to consumers and public safety on the 700 MHz spectrum.

NAPO holds the position that the entirety of the 700 MHz band should be interoperable. Currently, the 700 MHz spectrum is one of the largest commercial mobile services bands available and is the only one that is non-interoperable. NAPO urges the Commission to move quickly toward assuring interoperability across at least the Lower 700 MHz spectrum. This would be a step in the right direction toward full 700 MHz interoperability.

Enabling device interoperability in the 700 MHz spectrum will allow the nation's public safety network to operate at its full potential. It will also be an economically sound decision. In the case of an emergency, 700 MHz interoperability will allow first responders to be able to use the equipment to communicate without limitations. Complete interoperability also drives down the cost of mobile devices, in turn making them more affordable for first responders.

NAPO commends the Commission for the promotion of interoperability in the Lower 700 MHz spectrum. It will serve as a good first step forward in the build-out of a national public safety network that can one day be fully interoperable. If you have any questions on NAPO's comments for the proposed rulemaking, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Hedge, at [\(703\) 549-0775](tel:7035490775).

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director