

Region 20 – 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee
District of Columbia, State of Maryland and Northern Virginia

G. Edward Ryan, II, Chairman
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January 17, 2007

Ms. Dana Shaffer, Deputy Chief
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Room 7-C745
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Shaffer,

The Region 20, Regional Planning Committee overwhelmingly approved the draft plan for 700 MHz at an open meeting held in August of last year, agreeing that it best represents the needs of our public safety community. Our 700 MHz plan has been submitted to the four adjacent regions for their review and concurrence and we should be submitting it to the Commission in the near future. In the Regional Plan, we strongly support the ability of licensees within the Region to license and implement broadband data systems for multiple public safety user communities.

The Region has been particularly sensitive to the jurisdictions operating proximate to the nation's capital. Washington, DC, in addition to being the capital of our country and the free world, has been and continues to be a target for terrorist groups. Many of our country's sensitive national installations are located throughout Region 20. The Region also contains major ports, airports, rail corridors and other potential targets for terrorists. We believe that the review and approval of the Region 20 plan, when submitted, will be critical as a means of providing important frequency resources to the first responders of this highly challenged Region.

The Region supports the NCR waiver and requests that the Commission approve this waiver as expeditiously as possible. In the Regional Plan, before a permanent license (such as for the NCR's network) is issued, we require that the requesting entity present their channel requirement request to the Region 20 technical committee for review and approval. The ability to deploy broadband systems for public safety data communications is the desired solution for many municipalities and the expedited approval of this waiver is in the best interest of public safety and the communities we serve.

The Region understands that the broadband data effort currently underway is a complex issue, both technically and logistically; however, the Commission must understand that public safety providers cannot sit idly by waiting for decisions on enhanced communications systems. The Region respectfully requests that the Commission act without delay on this waiver request.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-260-8734 or by e-mail at: gryan@dnr.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

G. Edward Ryan II
Chairperson of Regional Planning Committee 20
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue, E-4
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GER/whb

cc: Maria-Elena Perez, Secretary, Region 20 – 700
Gary McKelvey, Vice-Chairman
Craig Fetzer, Chair, Technical Subcommittee
Robert LeGrande, OCTO
Joe Ross, OCTO
William Butler, OCTO/NCR
Bryan Casey, OCTO