

June 15, 2006

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Obstacles to Delivery of Next-Generation Satellite Communications Services
(File Nos. SES-LFS-20050826-01175; SES-MFS-20051122-01614; SES-STA-20060307-00374; SES-STA-20060310-00419; SES-LFS-20050930-01352; SES-MFS-20060118-00050; SES-STA-20060308-00388; SES-STA-20060313-00430; SES-LFS-20051011-01396; SES-STA-20060314-00438; SES-MFS-20051207-01709; SES-STA-20060307-00372; SES-LFS-20051123-01634; SES-STA-20060316-00454; SES-MFS-20051202-01665; SES-STA-20060307-00373; SES-LFS-20060303-00343; SES-STA-20060315-00445)

Dear Chairman Martin:

As an Emergency Management Technician here in Santa Rosa County Florida, one of my priorities with hurricane season knocking at our door is our emergency satellite communications. All our safety and emergency management organizations here in Florida rely on satellite communications. These satellite communications replace telephone and cellular service when those are destroyed by hurricanes or other disasters. Two-way satellite communications bring us a solution during and after a crisis.

New, upgraded systems are being proposed that will allow our first responders to easily shift to satellite service whenever local land facilities are overloaded or destroyed, as well as receive broadband access on the same handheld device. Also important is that this new system will make mobile broadband service available to many rural and remote areas, which currently do not have access to this technology. Any new tool or solution that will assist our emergency personnel here in Florida would help us save additional lives, or at least help those in need more quickly and efficiently.

I understand that deployment of this new technology is being blocked by several technical obstacles. One of these is contiguity of the L band spectrum, which is used to carry two-way satellite communications. As the use of this spectrum is regulated by the FCC, I ask that you investigate this issue and take measures to ensure that satellite providers in our state have access to enough contiguous spectrum to offer the new types of services that will make a difference for our first responders. By reallocating the spectrum as quickly as possible, you will be helping to save lives after the next hurricane or other crisis.

Sincerely,

Steve Mewborn