

Nacogdoches

the oldest town in Texas



July 18, 2006

Mr. Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 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:

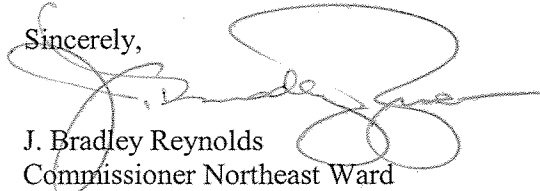
The heart of my city, Nacogdoches, was hit hard during Hurricane Rita. Of course, we were not on CNN but the toll it took on this town was truly devastating. We had several families without power for over 7 days to their homes and their businesses. Chaos is the best word to describe our area and surrounding areas due to lack of power, gas and efficient means of communication.

Serving on the Nacogdoches City Council, I have learned it is better to address issues before they happen rather than during or afterwards. So, first and foremost, we have to make sure our first responders – our police, firefighters, emts and others – have the ability to communicate, respond and recover when disasters occur and I know a two-way satellite communications system can make the difference. A system like this (one that uses land and satellite capabilities) will allow users to easily switch to satellite service whenever local land facilities are overloaded or destroyed.

Delivery of the next-generation satellite communications, however, will rely on efficient use of the L band spectrum. The current existing, inefficient distribution of the L band spectrum threatens the efficient delivery of broadband and satellite communications services. Operators of L band satellites should transfer spectrum use into adjoining blocks, thereby increasing effectiveness and enabling broadband technologies, consistent with the spectrum management goals of the President and the FCC.

With the hurricane season again well under way, our emergency communications systems could again, but hopefully not, be put to the test. That is why I am asking the FCC to remove these obstacles so we can move toward the deployment of such hybrid land-satellite services and help ensure that first responders and all Texans have the emergency communication they need in times of disaster.

Sincerely,



J. Bradley Reynolds
Commissioner Northeast Ward

cc: Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner

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