

May 24, 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:

Mississippi is still recovering from the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which made landfall on August 29, 2005. In the days and months following the storm, the resolve of our citizens has been tested. Land-based communications facilities were damaged or completely destroyed by the storm and were of no use to the people charged with the task of helping so many. However, the emergency workers were able to respond quickly, efficiently and effectively due to the reliable communications provided by Mobile Satellite Ventures, L.P. (MSV), thereby, enabling them to help those who had lost so much.

Our state's first responders are particularly interested in a new system provided by MSV and could possibly be available by 2009. This system is considered next-generation technology that will allow first responders to easily switch to satellite service when other facilities are not available and will also provide broadband access using the same handheld device. This technology will also provide mobile broadband to outlying areas...areas that normally do not have wireless service. One barrier could possibly delay the delivery of this next-generation satellite system – MSV's loaned L band spectrum needs to be returned by Inmarsat. Another barrier that needs to be addressed is the redistribution of the L band spectrum so that all parties' shares are contiguous.

Our state is constantly assessing how to better respond to emergencies. We are facing another active hurricane season in a few days and we are working continuously to improve our emergency response to natural disasters such as Katrina. It is my belief that the FCC can and must take an active role in making sure that our first responders are given everything

that is available to them that will better help with disaster recovery and should take steps to eliminate obstacles in achieving that goal.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. Thank you for your time.

Yours very truly,

Kent W. Buckley, Director
Bolivar County Emergency Management

Cc: Senator Trent Lott
Senator Thad Cochran
Governor Haley Barbour