

June 12, 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 a state that is frequently affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters, we have come to rely heavily on satellite communications, as this technology is best suited to ensuring uninterrupted communications capability during crisis situations. Many organizations, but especially public safety and government entities, rely on two-way satellite communications services provided by Mobile Satellite Ventures (MSV). Satellite technology has made an enormous difference in our ability to assess, respond to and recover from the devastating effects of natural disasters.

MSV is now working on a new satellite system that will allow our first responders to easily shift to satellite service whenever existing cellular or copper-based facilities fail during natural disasters. This system, which could be operational as soon as 2009, would also provide mobile broadband service to first responders, as well as to rural and remote areas of the state. Since our department is here to serve the residents of Hernando County, we pride ourselves on being able to respond quickly in emergency situations, and a large part of our emergency response comes from being able to communicate during emergency situations.

Unfortunately MSV's new system has two obstacles that may hamper or delay its delivery. The first being the return of some L band spectrum that it loaned to Inmarsat. The second is the inefficient distribution of the L band spectrum among the five parties that currently control the L band spectrum in North America. These concerns are preventing us from taking advantage of the next generation of satellite technology, which I have no doubt will become a vital tool for providing rapid response to emergency situations.

We need your help to ensure that we have access to the best technology that the satellite industry can offer. Our emergency response workers, and indeed, all of our citizens, are relying on your response to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Mark R. Tobert

Mark R. Tobert
Senior Emergency Management Coordinator
Hernando County Emergency Management