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September 23, 2009

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC File Number 0003935834

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I write in support of the waiver request by the FCC on behalf of the State of Alabama for the additional nine frequencies for use by the Alabama Digital Emergency/Education Network. Although this network will be administered by the Alabama Educational Television Commission, it is being implemented for use by all state emergency and protection agencies.

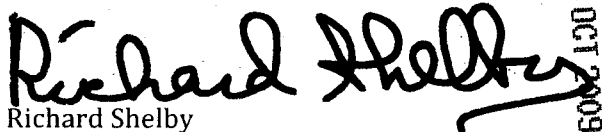
The purpose of this network is to improve the communications of state agencies to their facilities statewide, between agencies, and the public in general. It will incorporate the latest in digital and Internet Protocol technologies to allow for individual and shared communications while also providing open broadcast capabilities in emergency situations to the people of Alabama.

ADEN takes advantage of the already existing statewide broadcast tower, microwave, and satellite facilities operated by the Alabama Educational Television Commission, which represents a substantial investment by the state of Alabama.

The proposed Alabama Digital Emergency/Education Network provides the communications backbone that ties these agencies together to allow for a flexible and coordinated response to any statewide emergency. I am told that the new network will also provide educational capabilities for all state agencies on a daily basis which will improve training and response capabilities to emergencies when they occur. This proposed digital network, along with the capability to transmit digital information, either open source or encrypted, to just one person or to millions at one time is critical to a coordinated response to the potential emergencies that threaten the state. The ability to utilize the same statewide network system to also reach citizens in their homes and on mobile/handheld consumer electronic devices gives the state outreach capabilities to inform and instruct everyone during emergency situations.

I therefore respectfully request the FCC's support of this request, in accordance with all federal rules and procedures. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with further questions.

Sincerely,


Richard Shelby

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