

SPENCER BACHUS
6TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

COMMITTEE:
FINANCIAL SERVICES,
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

September 22, 2009

2246 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4921

1900 INTERNATIONAL PARK DRIVE
SUITE 107
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35243
(205) 969-2296

703 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
P.O. BOX 502
CLANTON, AL 35046
(205) 280-0704
<http://www.house.gov/bachus>

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

RE: FCC File Number 0003935834

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

Please accept this letter in support of the request for waiver by the FCC on behalf of the State of Alabama for the additional nine (9) frequencies for use by the Alabama Digital Emergency/Education Network (ADEN). 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 also takes advantage of the already existing statewide broadcast tower, microwave, and satellite facilities operated by the Alabama Educational Television Commission, which represent 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. This 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. The dynamic nature of 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

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gives the state tremendous outreach capabilities to inform and instruct everyone during emergency situations.

It is time that Alabama take advantage of new digital broadcast technologies and IP encapsulated data that can do so much more than television. Therefore, I respectfully request the FCC's consideration of the request for a frequency waiver for the nine requested UHF broadcast frequencies to allow the creation of the Alabama Digital Emergency/Educational Network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer Bachus". The signature is stylized with large, flowing letters.

Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress