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Parker Griffith, M.D. Congress of the United States Fifth District, Alabama

September 22, 2009

417 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202–225–4801 202–225–4392 fax

DISTRICT OFFICES: 2101 Clinton Avenue West, Suite 302 Huntsville, Alabama 35805 256–551–0190

> Morgan County Courthouse Box 668 Decatur, Alabama 35602 256–355–9400

The Bevill Center 1011 George Wallace Boulevard Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674 256–381–3450

http://griffith.house.gov

SEP 2009 RCVD

Honorable Julius Genachowski Chairman Federal Communications Commission Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC File Number 0003935834

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing 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 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. I therefore respectfully request the FCC's strongest support of our request for a frequency waiver for the nine requested UHF broadcast frequencies to allow the creation of the Alabama Digital Emergency/Educational Network.



Member of Congress

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Cc: Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner Honorable Mignon L. Clyburn, Commissioner Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker, Commissioner Allan A. Pizzato, Alabama Public Television