

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

November 18, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to you to express my support for the Petition for Rulemaking that was filed by the State of Louisiana with regard to existing Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules outlined in FCC 90.535. As you know, the existing rules would transition the FCC from 12.5 KHz to 6.25 KHz in order to increase spectrum efficiency. Louisiana, through its Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), is requesting that the Commission's rules for a mandatory transition deadline be modified from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2024. While I fully support the need to increase spectrum efficiency, I believe that moving the date back as proposed by the SIEC is essential to prevent unnecessary and imprudent spending by the State of Louisiana.

As outlined by the SIEC in their petition, the request to change the date is based on three primary points: 1) subscriber equipment capable of transmitting on the required spectrum is not currently available, 2) any equipment purchased today will be obsolete on December 31, 2016, thus shorting its lifecycle, and 3) the cost associated with purchasing soon-to-be equipment is not fiscally prudent and does not allow the State of Louisiana to be good stewards of government funds.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, I have made supporting and improving our interoperable communications system a top priority. Louisiana's vulnerability to multiple weather events of catastrophic proportion have led to unprecedented spending in establishing a statewide shared communication system. This system, the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN), is based on the 700 MHz allocation of spectrum designated for use by Public Safety. Louisiana has invested in over 48,000 subscriber units in the last four years at a cost of over \$120 million. Once the FCC rule is in place, it will make 700 MHz radio's obsolete, causing considerable negative impact for all users of LWIN.

Chairman Genachowski, I respectfully request that you support the Petition for Rulemaking that was filed by the State of Louisiana. The petition will prevent undue hardship and expense for all users of any Public Safety 700 MHz system, both within Louisiana and other states.

Page Two
November 18, 2009

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

MLL: twi

cc: The Honorable Michael J. Copps
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker