



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON  
March 18, 2010

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
331 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sandlin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the role of FM-based technologies in issuing emergency alerts and warnings, particularly the inclusion of FM radio tuners in mobile telephone handsets.

Pursuant to the Warning Alert and Response Network (WARN) Act, the Commission established a Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) by which participating wireless carriers may provide customers with emergency alerts and warnings via cell phones and other mobile devices. I welcome your suggestion that the Commission look into FM-based technologies as part of the CMAS. A number of broadcast industry organizations and other stakeholders supporting FM-based technologies participated in the Commercial Mobile Service Alert Advisory Committee process to develop technical aspects of the CMAS.

As you may be aware, on April 9, 2008, the Commission released its *First Report and Order* adopting technologically neutral rules for the CMAS. In that *Order*, the Commission considered the comments filed by supporters of FM-based emergency alert technologies, and ultimately concluded that it would "not require or prohibit the use of ALERT-FM . . . or similar systems as the basis of the CMAS." CMAS participants, then, are free to adopt FM-based technologies as they desire.

On December 7, 2009, the Commission initiated the 28-month period during which Commercial Mobile Service (CMS) providers must develop, test and deploy the CMAS. I am enclosing a copy of the Public Notice and News Release for your information.

I appreciate your interest in this very important matter. We will include your letter in the CMAS docket. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski

Enclosure