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*PSHSB*  
*700 MHz*  
*PV*  
*JCS*  
*693*

April 16, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write to share my support for allocating the 10 MHz of the 700 MHz spectrum, known as the D Block, for public safety use and request that you oppose a commercial auction of the D Block. Reallocating this part of the radio spectrum for public safety use would be critical in enabling the public safety community to develop and implement a nationwide public safety interoperable mobile broadband network, necessary for securing the safety of the entire United States. Additionally, as my District is said to contain the most dangerous stretch of two miles in the country due to the number of at-risk sites, advancing the establishment of such a network is in the greatest interest of my constituents.

A coalition of organizations representing a wide array of state and local officials, including the National Governors Association, police chiefs, fire chiefs and other public safety personnel, have all arrived at the position that redistributing the D Block for public safety use is the best way to at last build a concrete national interoperable communications network that allows for real-time information sharing through high speed video and data. The dedication of 20 MHz of the 700 MHz set aside solely for the public safety community, would finally designate the appropriate amount of space on the spectrum to meet the daily needs of firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel, as well as increased capacity during declared emergencies.

It is within the best interest of our homeland security to implement an interoperable mobile broadband network for public safety. After the unsuccessful attempt of a commercial auction of the D Block back in 2008, it is my hope that the Commission now considers the reallocation of the D Block for public safety use to expedite such a network.

Sincerely

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

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