



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

August 19, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's January 1, 2013 narrowbanding deadline. In recognition of the budgetary pressures many for public safety agencies face, the Commission took care to determine an appropriate transition period for narrowbanding that balanced the economic and operational impacts on of existing users, including rejecting calls for a more aggressive deadline.

The transition is well-underway and many licensees have converted their systems to more efficient narrowband operations. Licensees operating wideband systems after the deadline risk new problems – potentially experiencing reduced interoperability with systems already converted to narrowband, causing inadvertent harmful interference to other licensees operating on adjacent narrowband channels, and the increasing costs of maintaining aging and obsolete wideband devices.

While the future public safety broadband network has vast potential, we anticipate that public safety agencies will need to maintain and invest in their narrowband systems until the broadband network becomes available. For these reasons, the January 2013 narrowbanding deadline remains important. As always, however, and as detailed in the Commission's recent Public Notice, we are prepared to consider the particular circumstances of licensees facing unique challenges in meeting the narrowbanding requirement. The Public Notice is enclosed for your convenience.

I appreciate your letting me know of your concerns about this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Julius Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Julius Genachowski

Enclosure