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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

March 21, 2011

**0373**

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I write to you to address concerns that I have heard from public safety officials in New York regarding the Federal Communication Commission's requirement that all public safety land mobile radio systems operating in the 150-512 MHz radio bands cease operating using 25 kHz efficiency technology, and begin operating using at least 12.5 kHz efficiency technology, commonly known as "narrowbanding." I understand the need to ensure that the existing public safety spectrum is used as efficiently as possible, however, I am concerned that municipalities will need to purchase equipment to meet the 2013 deadline and then may need to purchase additional equipment again in just a few years as the public safety spectrum shifts to the 700MHz interoperable bandwidth.

As you may know, I am a cosponsor of S. 28, the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Communications Act. This legislation directs the FCC to grant 10 additional megahertz of the wireless spectrum for exclusive use by public safety to allow for the development of a national, interoperable broadband network for all public safety officials across the United States. President Obama has called for this, as a part of his Wireless Initiative, to begin by the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. This legislation would accomplish this goal and creates a forward-looking new paradigm for interoperable communications so that public safety will be able to utilize cutting-edge technology to share data and information. Moreover, this legislation would generate the necessary revenue to pay for the development and deployment of this network, and does not place any burdensome requirements on public safety entities to return the spectrum that they currently use.

I request that as you look to the 2013 narrowbanding deadline, you take into consideration the inevitable impact of a public safety broadband network, as designed in S. 28, on your current requirements. This is to make sure that the federal government is using a holistic and cost-effective approach to ensure that public safety has the necessary resources to meet future communications needs.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator