



James H. Douglas
Governor of Vermont
Chair

Joe Manchin III
Governor of West Virginia
Vice Chair

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

April 9, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On behalf of the nation's governors and first responders, we request that the Federal Communications Commission's recommendation in the National Broadband Plan be amended so that the 700 MHz D block is reallocated to public safety. This is the best way to ensure that a nationwide broadband network will meet the mission critical needs of our public safety community.

Allowing first responders roaming and priority access on other 700 MHz commercial broadband networks for a fee is not sufficient because it adds cost and complexity to their communications. In addition, much of this other spectrum is not suitable for use by first responders because devices that utilize the entire 700 MHz band do not currently exist. Removing the D block as the designated spectrum for public safety officials does not adequately meet public safety needs.

Our nation's first responders deserve the most modern and reliable communications capabilities available. The reallocation of the D block to public safety offers the best opportunity to provide these capabilities while still balancing commercial interests.

Sincerely,

Governor Martin O'Malley
Co-Chair, Special Committee on Homeland Security
and Public Safety

Governor Tim Pawlenty
Co-Chair, Special Committee on Homeland Security
and Public Safety

cc: The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Meredith Atwell Baker, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission