

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2012

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

PSHSB
Pub Safety
Radio
1/21

Re: File Nos. 0004980650, *et al.*; DA No. 12-74

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On January 23, 2012, the Federal Communications Commission released a Public Notice, DA 12-74, seeking comments regarding a request for waiver filed by the State of Maine. The State is seeking access to additional spectrum for a new state-wide public safety radio communications system. We urge the Commission to proceed as quickly as possible to respond to the State's request.

State and local government public safety agencies across Maine currently rely upon a patchwork of outdated radio systems, which do not provide consistent coverage, reliability or interoperability. A new state-wide radio system has been planned and is fully funded, but it requires additional channels that are not presently available to the State without a waiver of certain Commission rules. The channels in question are currently unassigned, but are designated for use by railroads and other industrial and business entities. The State informs us that it can use these channels without causing interference to current licensees or significantly limiting future spectrum availability for authorized users.

We also understand that the State of Maine has other applications necessary for the new radio system that are now pending with the Commission. We urge the Commission to process those applications as quickly as possible so the State can proceed with deployment of its new public safety communication network.

Thank you for your consideration of the issues raised in this letter.

Sincerely,



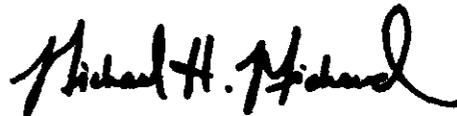
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

cc: Rear Admiral Jamie Barnett, Jr. (Ret.)
FCC Chief, Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau