



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

October 2, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

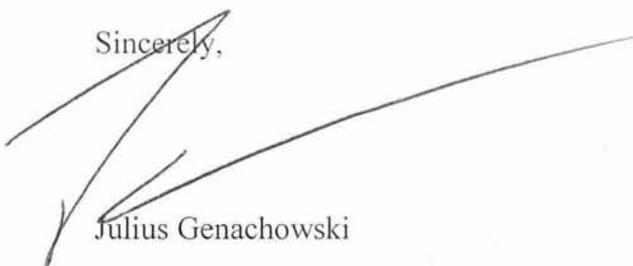
The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation known as Metra. I appreciate your interest in this matter and have directed the Chief of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to respond. I am pleased to provide the enclosed letter addressing your concerns.

If you have any additional questions or need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

October 2, 2012

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter regarding the spectrum needs of Metra and other rail lines to implement the positive train control (PTC) provisions of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA). I recognize the vital role that PTC will play in enhancing rail safety and the Commission is committed to helping rail carriers find PTC spectrum.

Commission staff has worked with numerous commuter rail carriers to educate them about ways to acquire spectrum pursuant to the Commission's secondary markets policies and to facilitate such transactions. Commission staff also has been working with interested federal agencies to facilitate the secondary market process.

The Commission believes that there is adequate spectrum available on the secondary market that is appropriate for PTC use. In recent months, transactions have been consummated for some of the most challenging markets, including Los Angeles and New York City. With Commission staff assistance, Metra and PTC-220 are working closely to implement PTC in Chicago, including via spectrum and infrastructure sharing. There is other secondary market spectrum available in Chicago, as well, to meet any further needs of these parties. The Commission and staff will continue working with Metra and other stakeholders as they implement PTC for the benefit of the American public.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should require further assistance. We will place a copy of your inquiry and our response in the Commission's PTC docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Milkman".

Ruth Milkman
Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau