

JON RUNYAN
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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3003
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE,
OCEANS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

PSG/SB

144

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing today to express my concern regarding ongoing digital television transmissions interference to public safety communications systems in southern New Jersey and request the Commission resolve interference issues on public safety radio.

The public safety radio frequencies in several southern New Jersey counties, including Burlington, Camden and Ocean Counties, have been experiencing interference since 2002. This interference has been magnified due to the FCC's licensing of digital television stations in the 500 MHz spectrum. In addition, the signal from out-of-state digital television stations in certain weather conditions can also cause interference. These conditions have made it difficult for public safety radio stations here in New Jersey to perform their functions.

As you know, this interference can lead to interrupted communications between emergency dispatchers and emergency responders. Radio signals that are scrambled or eliminated altogether can result in catastrophe if our first responders are unable to be communicated with in real-time.

As a result of the communications problems caused by DTV interference, municipalities and counties have been encouraged to move their systems to the 700 MHz spectrum, while using the 500 MHz frequency as a back-up. However, moving to a new frequency can cost millions of dollars, and there is no guarantee that municipalities and counties will have clear radio frequencies moving forward.

The complaints relayed to my office by Emergency Management personnel in Burlington, Camden and Ocean Counties are extremely troubling. It is my hope that the FCC work with these counties to resolve these issues and ensure that public safety is preserved in our communities. I also ask that you respond to this letter in writing with how the FCC intends to resolve the current interference issues so that our first responders are able to communicate on a clear, reliable frequency now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

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