



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 10, 2010

The Honorable Candice S. Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
228 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Miller:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's requirement that all land mobile radio licensees operating in the UHF/VHF bands below 512 MHz migrate from wideband operations (using 25 kHz channels) to narrowband operations (using 12.5 kHz channels) by January 1, 2013.

Please be assured that we are mindful of public safety's concerns regarding the January 2013 narrowbanding deadline, particularly the significant expenditure that this process represents to many public safety agencies. Commission staff will be contacting your office to assist your constituents in exploring possible solutions or addressing particular concerns. Several grant programs for improving local public safety agencies' communications systems are available through the Department of Homeland Security. Additionally, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO) may have information about private sources of grants and funding.

As you note, the Commission's narrowbanding requirement is intended to ensure more efficient use of the spectrum, and greater spectrum access for both public safety and non-public safety users. In most of the country, spectrum for land mobile communications, including spectrum set aside for public safety agencies, is becoming increasingly crowded. In anticipation, the Commission began the narrowbanding process almost two decades ago, and in 2004, set the January 2013 deadline for public safety licensees to complete their migration to narrowband operations. We understand that the economic difficulties faced by state and local jurisdictions have rendered the 2013 deadline problematic for some. Failure to complete the migration process on schedule, however, will cause difficulties in other areas. Public safety licensees operating wideband systems after the deadline will experience reduced interoperability with narrowbanded systems, and continued wideband operations also could cause harmful interference to public safety licensees operating on adjacent narrowband channels. Completion of the migration process, conversely, will free up spectrum for new public safety operations.

I appreciate your bringing this important matter to my attention. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski