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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 17, 2011

Senator Jay Rockefeller  
31 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC  
20510

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC  
20510

Dear Senators Rockefeller and Hutchison,

I want to take this opportunity to support the reallocation of the 700 MHz D block spectrum for public safety. This would address the frequency inadequacies currently inhibiting the build-out and operation of public safety 700 MHz radio systems.

Currently, Louisiana has one of the largest 700 MHz statewide radio systems in existence. Given the name Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN), this system is comprised of over 100 tower sites that provide almost 95% statewide coverage available to all local, tribal, state, and federal partners. Supporting over 60,000 users, the system provides communication capabilities that supported over 95 million "push-to-talk" conversations in Louisiana during the 2010 calendar year. This achievement has been made possible by dedicating hundreds of millions of dollars in local, state, and federal monies over the past five years.

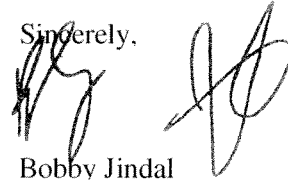
Just one example of LWIN's advanced capabilities can be seen in the system's performance during the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Coordinating with sister-states of Mississippi and Texas as well as the city of Orange Beach, Alabama, the State of Louisiana managed the creation of the Gulf Wireless Information Network (GulfWIN). GulfWIN created a series of patches and interstate connections between the different radio systems to give the responders coverage from Corpus Christi, Texas, to Pensacola, Florida. GulfWIN allowed the myriad jurisdictions, functional areas, and geographically dispersed responders the ability to communicate using a standard, shared resource. As with any emergency response, the judicious use of and conservation of scarce resources has a major impact on the ability of public safety responders to function. GulfWIN not only provided an interoperable communication path for easier coordination, but it also alleviated the need to duplicate efforts if each local, state, and federal partner had been required to establish their own radio system.

While this is just one example of LWIN's success, there are still many hurdles that must be overcome. Frequency allocation is one of the most critical issues that currently impacts the establishment and expansion of statewide radio systems. This is especially important in Louisiana as we look to add additional capacity to LWIN and establish data interoperability for Louisiana's first responders. As with any resource, there is a limit to the amount of frequencies that are available to public safety. With the ever expanding demand for first responders to be able to handle any threat, be it natural or man-made, the need for interoperable communications between the different levels of government becomes ever more

crucial. In conjunction with this need for interoperable communications, there is an increasing need for additional spectrum.

LWIN and GulfWIN are considered examples of excellence for the rest of the Nation. GulfWIN can also be held as a model for the implementation of a national public safety radio system. Therefore, I support and encourage the allocation of the 700 MHz D block spectrum to be reallocated to public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BJ', written over a faint, illegible typed name.

Bobby Jindal  
Governor