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Public Safety
Communications**

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American Association of State Highway
and Transportation Officials

American Radio Relay League

American Red Cross

Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies

Association of Public Safety
Communications Officials -
International

Forestry Conservation Communications
Association

International Association of
Chiefs of Police

International Association of
Emergency Managers

International Association of Fire Chiefs

International Municipal Signal
Association

National Association of State
Emergency Medical Services Officials

National Association of State Foresters

National Association of State
Telecommunications Directors

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Federal Communications Commission

Federal Partnership for Interoperable
Communications

National Telecommunications and
Information Administration

Telecommunications Industry
Association

US Department of Agriculture

US Department of Justice

NIJ CommTech Program

US Department of Homeland Security

FEMA

SAFECOM Program

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NPSTC PRESS RELEASE

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NPSTC Supports Assignment of 30 MHz of To-Be-Auctioned Spectrum to the Nation's Public Safety Community

(Littleton, Colorado, November 29, 2006)—The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) submitted comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) supporting the proposal that 30 MHz of spectrum in the upper 700 MHz band, currently scheduled for auction, be held in trust for public safety to create a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network. The nation has a unique opportunity to take advantage of the clearance of a nationwide block of 30 MHz of contiguous frequencies in the 700 MHz spectrum band that is adjacent to spectrum currently allocated to public safety and that would be ideal for the creation of a broadband nationwide network.

NPSTC has always been a strong advocate for the additional spectrum allocation public safety needs in the 700 MHz band, especially for wide-area broadband communications. There is an increasing demand for public safety communications capabilities as our population grows and public safety adds the new responsibilities of preventing and responding to acts of terrorism to its long-standing mission to protect life and property. Public safety has not had adequate spectrum resources to support life-saving broadband applications. While mission-critical voice communications remain the priority, in today's world, public safety also needs the capability to reliably transmit and receive detailed, critical information to field personnel, such as documents, photographs, text messaging, and video. These applications require spectrum that public safety simply does not have.

NPSTC supports changes to existing law to require that the 30 MHz of spectrum be reallocated for broadband public safety operations for local, state, and federal public safety agencies. Unless concepts of this nature are pursued, the severe challenges facing state and local public safety communications will endure.

Formed on May 1, 1997, NPSTC is a federation of organizations representing public safety telecommunications. NPSTC was originally formed to encourage and facilitate implementation of the findings and recommendations of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC), established in 1994 by the Federal Communications Commission and National Telecommunications and Information Administration to evaluate the wireless communications needs of local, tribal, state, and federal public safety agencies through the year 2010, identify problems, and recommend possible solutions.

NPSTC has since taken on additional responsibilities including implementing the recommendations of the FCC Public Safety National Coordination Committee (NCC) and the support and development of the Computer Assisted Pre-coordination and Resource Database System (CAPRAD) for 700 MHz spectrum to assist the Regional Planning Committees. NPSTC develops and makes recommendations to appropriate governmental bodies regarding public safety communications issues and policies that promote greater interoperability and cooperation between local, state and federal agencies.