

SEAN PARNELL
Governor



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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 26, 2012

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

This letter is to express my dismay in regard to your appointment of Jim Kohler as representative for the State of Alaska's Department of Administration on the Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability (Board).

As you are aware, Governor Parnell responded to your request for a nominee to represent the State of Alaska by putting forth the name of Major Matthew Leveque, Deputy Director of the Alaska State Troopers. Major Leveque is the chairman of the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (AMLR) User Council and the co-chairman of the Alaska Interoperable Communications Committee (AKICC). Major Leveque has vast knowledge in regard to critical communications in Alaska.

As was made clear in Mr. Patrick J. Carney's letter congratulating Mr. Kohler on his appointment, the Federal Communications Commission expects Mr. Kohler to represent the State of Alaska's Department of Administration on this Board, holding a State or local Government set, defined by the Spectrum Act. Because Mr. Kohler was not put forward by the Governor of the State of Alaska, nor was his appointment approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration or myself, it is negligent to assume that he will be representing this government agency. Mr. Kohler is a respected State employee and we appreciate his service, but we do not support his appointment to this Board.

I find it unreasonable that the State's representative would not be vetted by the Governor of the State. It is an injustice to the State of Alaska to deny us a representative on the Board and goes against the best interests of Alaskans. Please reconsider your decision and replace Mr. Kohler with the Governor's nominee, Major Matthew Leveque.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Nizich".

Michael Nizich
Chief of Staff

cc: The Honorable Becky Hultberg, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Administration
Jennifer Manner, Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission