

Steve Largent
President/CEO

November 12, 2008

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

I am writing to make you aware of a recent public announcement by CellAntenna that it will be holding a demonstration of wireless jamming technology on November 21, 2008, in a South Carolina correctional facility.¹ CellAntenna has acknowledged that its action would violate the law. The Communications Act clearly prohibits the sale or use of wireless jammers and for good reason.² The use of wireless jammers impairs the legitimate use of wireless by those nearby, including critical E911 calls and public safety communications. As a bipartisan group of Members of Congress noted in a March 6, 2008, letter, "the dependability of all wireless communications – either commercial or public safety communications in bands adjacent to commercial frequencies – is now being threatened by the marketing and use of devices that unlawfully transmit radio signals on frequencies licensed for commercial wireless services."³

I hope you are disturbed as much as I am that CellAntenna would so brazenly violate federal law, especially where there are lawful alternatives to combating contraband in prisons such as sniffer dogs and scanners operated in compliance with Section 15.121(c) of the Commission's rules. I hope you will enforce the federal ban on the sale or use of wireless jammers by directing the FCC Enforcement Bureau to issue an order, pursuant to Section 401(b) of the Communications Act, directing parties involved not to conduct the demonstration and/or ask the United States Department of Justice, pursuant to Section 401(a) of the Communications Act, to file suit in federal court to enjoin the demonstration. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please don't hesitate to call me.

Thanks Kevin!

Sincerely,

Steve Largent
Steve Largent

¹ South Carolina Sets Test of Cellphone Jamming Without FCC Permission, Comm. Daily (Oct. 27, 2008).

² See 47 U.S.C. § 333 ("No person shall willfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radio communications of any station licensed or authorized by or under this Act or operated by the United States Government").

³ See Letter from U.S. Representatives Mike Doyle, Mary Bono, Bart Stupak, Mike Ferguson, Jan Schakowsky, Mike Rogers, Gene Green, George Radanovich, and Jay Inslee to FCC Chairman Kevin Martin (Mar. 6, 2008).

