Dave Freudenthal
Governor

Kelly Hamilton
Chairman

State of Wyoming

State Agency Law Enforcement Communications System Commission

September 30, 2003

Mr. Ivan Posey
227 Blue Sky Highway
Lander, WY 82520

Dear Mr. Posey:

I am writing to ask for your assistance with respect to a task which has been assigned to the public safety community of the State of Wyoming, and which includes the tribal nations. I was given your name by Jo Grady of the Department of Health, after the press announcement of your appointment as tribal liaison.

In 1998, the Federal Communications Commission made a block of 700 MHz spectrum available for the public safety services (police, fire, emergency medical, etc.). This additional allocation more than doubled all of the previously assigned radio spectrum currently in use by public safety entities. Along with this allocation of spectrum, the FCC has charged each region (normally a state) with the responsibility for developing a plan for the use of this spectrum.

Wyoming is Region 46, and we convened our Regional Planning Committee (RPC) in February, 2001, for the purposes of developing a plan for the future/potential use of frequencies in the 700 MHz band. The guidelines for the RPC say, "These plans should include, but not be limited to, interoperability operations on the 700 MHz interoperability channels. These committees should include an equal number of representatives each providing regional representation from state, county, and local governments, with additional representation from special districts and federal agencies, as appropriate." The FCC is quite adamant that the Native American Tribes be included in this planning process. Our original representative of the tribes was Kathy Red Cloud, a dispatcher from the Ft. Washakie Police Department. Ms. Red Cloud attended our first official meeting in Casper, but has been unable to participate in subsequent meetings.

The purpose of my writing this letter to you is to ask your assistance in obtaining a replacement for Ms. Red Cloud from the tribes to represent you on the Wyoming 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee. It does not need to be someone from the police department, but should be someone who has a working knowledge of public safety radio communications as they apply to reservation activities. I have been given the names of Anthony Addison and John Washakie as representatives of the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone, respectively, as people I should contact for assistance, but I thought that it would be more appropriate to go through you.

The next meeting of the Region 46 RPC is scheduled for November 17th, 7:00 p.m., at the Casper Holiday Inn. It will be held in conjunction with the Annual Wyoming Association of Public Safety Officials (APCO) Meeting on November 18-19. At this meeting we will be discussing the

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status of the Wyoming 700 MHz plan to date, as well has have topical presentations by a representative

of the National Coordinating Committee, and the manager of regulatory policy from one of the major radio vendors.

This all ties in with our efforts to develop a statewide infrastructure for interoperable communications among all our first responder/public safety entities. The FCC issued a report and order this past July, mandating major changes in wide band, VHF radio communications. This directly affects all public safety radio services in the state, who currently operate in the VHF spectrum. It is important that we have tribal representation in these meetings, to ensure that your radio communications needs are met as we move forward to develop a new infrastructure throughout the state of Wyoming.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If you can provide me with names of appropriate tribal elders with whom I should communicate, I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Kent Drummond, Chairman
Region 46, 700 MHz RPC
Emerson Building, Room 214
Cheyenne, WY 82002

CC: Kelly Hamilton, Chairman, State Agency Law Enforcement Communications Commission
Dan Perko, President, WYAPCO