

**Before the
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515**

In the Matter Of)	
)	
)	
The FCC Commissioners')	Senate Bill S.2881
Technical Resource)	Introduced December 14, 2009
Enhancement Act)	
)	

**COMMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTING ENGINEERS
SUPPORTING THE ADDITION OF A TECHNICAL
POSITION TO THE STAFF OF EACH FCC COMMISSIONER**

The Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers (AFCCE), which recently celebrated its 60th year anniversary, is an organization that includes approximately 236 members, 78 of whom are Registered Professional Engineers, engaged in the practice of consulting engineering before the Federal Communications Commission. Many of the Association's members provide engineering consultation services to clients who hold FCC licenses or are applicants for such licenses in virtually all of the Commission's radio services, including radio and television broadcasting, personal and commercial wireless services, public safety and Homeland Security services, broadband services and satellite communications.

These comments are being offered by AFCCE in support of a proposed Senate Bill, "FCC Commissioners Technical Resource Act" (S.2881, introduced December 14, 2009, by Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and co-sponsored by Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)).

The primary function of the Federal Communications Commission is to regulate spectrum use so that interference between users is minimized and that the allocation of spectrum space for competing services is optimized. Many of the FCC's regulatory decisions involve complex technical matters, yet individual Commissioners do not have a designated position for a skilled, independent engineering advisor who can coordinate with and assess the analyses of OET, bureau, and competing private interests' engineers. Thus, far-reaching decisions are made without their implications being fully understood.

For example, current plans to repurpose spectrum for broadband use appear to be moving at a rapid pace that is based upon the assumption that more spectrum on a nationwide basis is the only solution to a perceived shortage of mobile broadband capacity in a few densely populated areas. Implementing such a policy will have far-reaching technical implications, which will impact current and future users of the spectrum.

AFCCE believes that the public interest would best be served by providing each FCC Commissioner with a full-time technical advisor, who can be consulted on matters of a technical nature. AFCCE believes that this position should be mandatory, not optional, so that each Commissioner can be adequately informed of the technical ramifications when making regulatory decisions.

The term "Engineer" has multiple definitions and the qualifications for its use vary with the requirements of the various jurisdictions. For these reasons, AFCCE recommends that the language of the Bill be amended to state, "Each commissioner

shall also appoint a person who at least holds an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering, Physics, or a related field from an institution of higher education, to provide the commissioner with technical consultation, when appropriate, and to interface with the Office of Engineering and Technology, Commission Bureaus, and other technical staff of the Commission for additional technical input and resources.”

Finally, AFCCE suggests that Congress should allocate funds for these positions. Having the funding in place when the Bill is adopted would better ensure success in staffing this position.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome J. Manarchuck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jerome J. Manarchuck

President
March 29, 2010

AFCCE
P.O. Box 19333
Washington, DC 20036-0333