



APCO International

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc.

September 12, 2008

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Chief Derek Poarch
Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Travelers Information Service

Dear Chief Poarch:

On September 9, 2008, the American Association of Information Radio Operators (“AAIRO”) filed a “Petition for Ruling” concerning the permissible content of Travelers Information Service (“TIS”) broadcasts. Specifically, AAIRO asks the Commission to clarify that Section 90.242(a)(7), would permit “any message concerning the safety of life or protection of property that may affect any traveler or any individual in transit or soon to be in transit, may be transmitted on Travelers Information Stations, at the sole discretion of officials authorized to operate such stations.” APCO strongly supports the AAIRO petition.

Unfortunately, the FCC’s rules regarding TIS have sometimes been construed to prohibit broadcast of information such as NOAA weather reports that would clearly promote public safety. That has discouraged some local governments from utilizing TIS to its full potential. There is wide range of public safety-related information that should be permitted for broadcast on TIS stations, such as weather reports, Amber Alerts, public health messages and other civil defense notices. APCO urges the Commission to take appropriate steps to eliminate any ambiguity in its rules that might prevent such public safety information from being disseminated to the public on TIS stations. Please contact the undersigned should the Commission require any additional information regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Fischer
President