



January 8, 2010

The Honorable Jay D. Rockefeller  
 Chairman  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 Committee  
 U.S. Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchinson  
 Ranking Member  
 Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
 Committee  
 U.S. Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Energy and Commerce  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Energy and Commerce  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We, the undersigned groups, representing a broad cross section of the public safety and government services community, respectfully request that Congress take immediate action to introduce legislation to reallocate an additional 10 MHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band (D Block) to public safety to build a nationwide public safety interoperable mobile broadband network.

The additional 10 MHz of spectrum will be combined with the current 10 MHz of spectrum that is allocated to public safety to create a 20 MHz block of spectrum to build a nationwide public safety broadband network. When built, the new broadband network will be able to support a broad range of public safety, government, critical infrastructure and consumer applications such as voice, video, and internet services. Some of the mission critical public safety applications include:

- transmitting high resolution pictures and building blueprints
- on-the-scene telemedicine services
- emergency vehicle telematics, such as GPS tracking
- incident command and control operations
- situational awareness programs
- two-way video conferencing
- two-way voice communications including new radio over IP technologies
- video monitoring and broadcast services
- first responder health monitoring equipment
- emergency management programs
- large scale evacuation management
- public alerting and alarm services
- Enabling next generation 9-1-1

Our country's state, local, tribal, and federal government agencies need the additional D block spectrum to build a robust mobile wireless broadband network that will improve our nation's homeland security and provide first responders with new interoperable communications technologies that are urgently needed. The mobile broadband network will also enable state, local, and tribal governments to provide more cost efficient services to their communities and save local and state government millions of dollars in administering such programs as reading water meters and deploying smart grid technologies. The envisioned public/private partnership will also provide much needed public safety as well as commercial broadband service to rural America.

The next evolution of technologies coming online hold the promise to significantly improve the emergency communications capabilities of state and local governments. Adequate spectrum and funding are the keys to achieve this necessary goal. Some of the initial benefits are:

- Current tasks, which once require considerably radio talk time, such as database lookups and dispatch messaging, can now be off-loaded to broadband applications, significantly reducing the talk time on public safety land mobile radios.
- It will enhance day-to-day operations, providing remote access to databases (e.g. DMV records), remote form entry and remote reporting. In addition, it will provide officers with internet and secure intranet access, decreasing paperwork and increasing the amount of time officers spend on patrol.
- It will allow mission-critical information to be exchanged in real-time, anytime, anywhere. This will improve the distribution of images such as floor plans, mug shots, incident stills, videos (surveillance feeds, on-scene video), messaging, access to information from the field, and enhanced incident response and command and control operations.
- It will enhance task force operations by allowing secure, easy, interoperable sharing of information (voice, video, and multi-media data) among members of the task force.

We look forward to working with Congress to establish the appropriate spectrum and monetary policy framework that will revolutionize the way our first responders and local and state governments are able to communicate for decades to come. To that end, we ask for the introduction of legislation to allocate the D block spectrum to public safety and provide an annually recurring and dedicated funding source to build and maintain the nationwide public safety wireless broadband network. Our nation cannot afford to miss this one-time-only opportunity and we call on Congress to support our first responders who put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve their communities. We thank you for your continued support.

/s/

Association of Public-Safety Communication Official (APCO), International

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)

Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC)

Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCS)

Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA)

National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)

National Emergency Number Association (NENA)

National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)