



June 24, 2019

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Engel and Representative Zeldin:

The International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs' Association, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, Channel Industries Mutual Aid, Greater Boston Police Council, ICI System and LA-RICS support the Don't Break Up the T-Band Act of 2019 (H.R. 451). We thank Representatives Eliot Engel, Lee Zeldin, Al Green, and Pete King for introducing this legislation. Section 6301 in Title VI of P.L. 112-96 mandates the Federal Communications Commission begin an auction of the T-Band spectrum allocated to public safety by February 21, 2021 and clear public safety users from the band within two years of auction close.

H.R. 451 will resolve an important issue for local public safety organizations across the nation. In 11 major metropolitan areas, local public safety organizations have spent many years and millions in federal, state, and local taxpayer funds to plan and buildout T-Band networks to meet mission-critical voice requirements.¹ The results are hardened public safety networks that meet the operational needs of each area. These T-Band networks provide resilient mission-critical voice coverage; communications reliability; group calling; emergency call alerting, local control and specialized operations capability; and regional interoperability. Public safety T-Band networks protect 90 million Americans.

We thank Representatives Engel, Zeldin, Green, and King for introducing this important legislation. By repealing the T-Band auction requirement, Congress ensures that local fire, EMS, and law enforcement agencies will continue to be able to communicate with one another during emergency operations and major incidents. We urge Congress to consider and pass this important legislation this year.

Sincerely,

International Association of Fire Chiefs
National Sheriffs' Association
Major County Sheriffs of America
Channel Industries Mutual Aid
Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System

International Association of Chiefs of Police
Major Cities Chiefs Association
Greater Boston Police Council
ICI System

¹ The affected metropolitan areas are Boston, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, Pittsburgh, Houston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Miami and Washington, D.C.