



April 7, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C 20510 Washington D.C 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Pallone, Ranking member Walden:

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) strongly urges you to include language that would repeal Section 6103, Title VI of P.L. 112-96 in any stimulus legislation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As Emergency Medical Services (EMS), fire departments, police department personnel, and others work to keep their communities safe and healthy during the current crisis and in the future, it is imperative that these T-Band users know they will continue to have the resources they need to do their jobs on behalf of the public.

NPSTC is a federation of public safety organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership. NPSTC pursues the role of resource

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials | American Radio Relay League | Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies | Association of Public Safety Communications Officials | Forestry Conservation Communications Association | International Association of Chiefs of Police | International Association of Emergency Managers | International Association of Fire Chiefs | International Municipal Signal Association | National Association of State Chief Information Officers | National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials | National Association of State Foresters | National Association of State Technology Directors | National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators | National Emergency Number Association | National Sheriffs' Association

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and advocate for public safety organizations in the United States on matters relating to public safety telecommunications.

On February 22, 2012, P.L. 112-96 was enacted, in part, in Title VI, to provide spectrum and funding for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) and implementation by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). However, Section 6103 of P.L. 112-96 requires the FCC to reallocate the public safety T-Band spectrum band and begin an auction of that spectrum by February 22, 2021, and clear public safety operations from the T-Band within 2 years of auction close. Public safety uses the spectrum to support mission critical voice communications (such as dispatch and on-scene tactical) and data (such as computer aided dispatch). The T-Band spectrum is allocated for public safety use within a 50-mile radius of eleven metropolitan centers: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, San Francisco, and Washington.

NPSTC conducted a comprehensive analysis of the T-Band in 2013 (and updated report in 2016) and found there is insufficient spectrum in any public safety band to support relocation out of the T-Band. The study also provided a relocation cost estimate for each T-Band area and concluded the cost of relocation in all eleven T-Band areas would be approximately \$5.9B, even if spectrum were available in all locations which is not the case. For example, New York City and the Boston area have no spectrum to be relocated. quantified the population of citizens in each of the eleven T-Band areas covering about 90M people in total.

On June 21st, 2018, the General Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report examining the use of the T-Band (470-512 MHz) by public safety agencies. The GAO concluded that the Congressionally mandated auction of those frequencies should be reconsidered and allow public safety to continue using the T-Band spectrum. GAO reported that relocation costs would likely exceed auction proceeds. On December 2, 2019, the chairman of the Federal Communications Council (FCC) called for repeal of section 6103 citing the GAO report and the critical need for public safety to maintain the spectrum.

We respectfully request that the auction requirement of the T-Band be repealed. Time is of the essence as the section 6103 requirement is quickly approaching and public safety continues to need this spectrum.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ralph Haller", written in black ink.

Ralph Haller, Chairman, National Public Safety Telecommunications Council