



August 17, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

As members of the Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition, we ask that you allocate \$15 billion to facilitate a nationwide upgrade of our 9-1-1 infrastructure to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) as you weigh your funding priorities for reconciliation legislation. The focus on improving our nation's infrastructure provides a unique opportunity for Congress to make a once-in-a-generation investment to modernize our 9-1-1 systems to NG 9-1-1. NG 9-1-1 will enable Emergency Communications Centers (ECCs) to receive a variety of multimedia (photos, videos) and other data from 9-1-1 callers and seamlessly share this information with other ECCs and responding fire, EMS, and law enforcement officials in the field. This will make emergency responses faster and more efficient and make public safety professionals and the communities they serve safer. Simply put, NG 9-1-1 will save lives.

Even though 9-1-1 systems are critical infrastructure in every community, they are underfunded and technologically inadequate to address the needs and expectations of the American people in the 21st Century. While 9-1-1 operations are state and local functions, the investment of federal resources in this critical infrastructure will ensure that all communities in the United States -- be they rural, urban, suburban, or tribal -- will have a secure, resilient, interoperable, and reliable way of receiving, processing, and responding to requests for emergency assistance.

This \$15 billion requested will ensure that the core public safety principles of our Coalition would be met. For example, seamless interoperability among ECCs and police, fire, and EMS agencies is essential to save precious minutes and ensure the most effective, efficient, and safest emergency response. The NG 9-1-1 funding would also enable the development of vital cybersecurity measures to help public safety agencies protect 9-1-1 networks from cyber-attacks, support needed training for ECC personnel to triage the information that they are receiving during major incidents and provide timely and actionable information to the first responders on scene. NG 9-1-1 funding would also be most effective with input from a public safety advisory board that will provide guidance during the NG 9-1-1 transition and meet local first responders' and the public's needs.

The Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition consists of diverse stakeholders from national public safety associations representing law enforcement, fire, EMS, and 9-1-1 professionals who know best what is needed to modernize 9-1-1 and improve emergency response. The \$15 billion in funding we are requesting for NG 9-1-1 would secure the best outcome for public safety professionals and the communities they serve as they carry out their life-saving missions.

Thank you for considering our request. Kindly direct any questions to Mel Maier, Coalition Leader and Captain, Oakland County (MI) Sheriff's Department, at maierm@oakgov.com.

Sincerely,

Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International

International Association of Chiefs of Police

International Association of Fire Chiefs

Major Cities Chiefs Association

Major County Sheriffs of America

Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association

National Association of State EMS Officials

National Sheriffs Association