



August 31, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Co-Chair, NextGen 911 Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
272 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Hudson
Co-Chair, NextGen 911 Caucus
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, and Representatives Eshoo and Hudson:

As members of the Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition, we have appreciated the opportunity to work with your staff to achieve bipartisan agreement on Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) legislation. You have been champions for NG 9-1-1, and we are counting on your continued support. We ask that you allocate \$15 billion to facilitate a nationwide upgrade of our 9-1-1 infrastructure to NG 9-1-1 as you weigh your funding priorities for our nation. 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 50-plus year old 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.

9-1-1 systems are critical infrastructure in every community. However, 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 request will ensure that the core public safety principles of our Coalition would be met. For example, seamless interoperability using non-proprietary and competitively neutral technological solutions among ECCs, 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 and 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 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. We have introduced our Coalition and discussed our legislative principles with every member of the committee, and we were pleased to find that there is widespread bipartisan support. This is reflective of the additional bipartisan support we have received from the leadership of the House law enforcement and fire caucuses. 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