

Documents for the Record – 03.25.26

1. A March 23, 2026, letter from the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police.
2. A March 23, 2026, letter from the North Carolina State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police.
3. A March 24, 2026, letter from the IACP.
4. A February 19, 2026, letter from the National Congress of American Indians.
5. A March 24, 2026, letter from public safety organizations.
6. A March 23, 2026, letter from the City of Corning to Rep. Langworth.
7. A March 24, 2026, letter from National Sheriffs Association.
8. A March 23, 2026, letter from the National Fraternal Order of Police.
9. A resolution from the National Congress of American Indians.
10. A February 12, 2026, letter from Stockbridge-Munsee Community.



KENTUCKY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

• 6204 Price Lane • Louisville KY 40229

www.kystatefop.com

23 March 2026

The Honorable S. Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Kentucky State Fraternal Order of Police to thank you for your continued leadership to advance legislation that would reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) before its statutory deadline of 22 February 2027. Our members, who serve on the front lines in communities throughout our great Commonwealth, depend on FirstNet's reliable framework to perform their duties safely and effectively. To ensure the continued safety of these officers and our nation's public safety priorities, we strongly urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce to support and favorably report a clean reauthorization bill.

The foundation of FirstNet's success lies in its alignment with the practical demands of everyday public safety operations which are informed by the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). When catastrophic flooding devastated eastern Kentucky in July 2022—one of the worst natural disasters in the Commonwealth's history, killing more than 45 people and displacing thousands—FirstNet deployable assets were on the ground within hours. A Satellite Cell on Light Truck (SatCOLT), communications vehicles, and Compact Rapid Deployables were rushed into Breathitt, Knott, Perry, and surrounding counties, restoring connectivity for law enforcement, search and rescue teams, and emergency managers in terrain where commercial infrastructure had been entirely washed away. There were no reported outages, coordination failures, or FirstNet performance deficiencies. FirstNet performed exactly as Congress intended.

From our perspective, the governance model in current law provides FirstNet with a dedicated Public Safety Advisory Committee, a long-term partnership with a commercial carrier, and a reinvestment mandate that returns all network revenue to public safety improvements. We are concerned that some provisions of the proposed amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 7386, the "First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act," may inadvertently



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weaken the key elements driving FirstNet's success and that FirstNet's ability to deploy like it did in Kentucky in July 2022 may be compromised.

FirstNet is the most significant investment this nation has ever made in the communications infrastructure for the men and women who protect our communities. With the February 2027 expiration quickly approaching, we urge you to consider and favorably report a clean reauthorization for consideration by the full House.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of the views of the more than 11,000 members of the Kentucky State Fraternal Order of Police. If I can provide any additional information about this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott Hildebrand
Kentucky State Lodge President



NORTH CAROLINA STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

P. O. Box 6335
Asheville, NC 28816
(919) 461-4939
ncfopstatelodge@outlook.com



Chet Effler
State President

Lynn S. Wilson
State Secretary

23 March 2026

The Honorable Richard L. Hudson, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hudson,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the North Carolina State Fraternal Order of Police to thank you for your continued leadership to advance legislation that would reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) before its statutory deadline of 22 February 2027. Our members, who serve on the front lines in communities throughout our great State, depend on FirstNet's reliable framework to perform their duties safely and effectively. To ensure the continued safety of these officers and our nation's public safety priorities, we strongly urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce to support and favorably report a clean reauthorization bill.

The foundation of FirstNet's success lies in its alignment with the practical demands of everyday public safety operations which are informed by the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). In North Carolina, during Hurricane Helene in September 2024, we witnessed firsthand just how effective and resilient FirstNet is. Despite staggering destruction, North Carolina's 9-1-1 call centers remained operational throughout the crisis. During the three days of peak devastation emergency telecommunicators answered nearly 90,000 calls, a 55 percent surge over normal volume, without a single systemic communications failure. That outcome was not accidental. Since 2023, the North Carolina 9-1-1 Board has partnered with the FirstNet Authority to build a highly resilient IP-based emergency services network, with FirstNet providing redundant connectivity that automatically rerouted calls when individual centers lost power or connectivity. In city after city — from Murphy to Manteo — the FirstNet Response Operations Group deployed assets to hospitals, emergency operations centers, fire departments, and the airport that served as the primary conduit for relief supplies into the hardest-hit areas. There were no reported outages, coordination failures, or FirstNet performance deficiencies. FirstNet performed exactly as Congress intended.

From our perspective, the governance model in current law provides FirstNet with a dedicated Public Safety Advisory Committee, a long-term partnership with a commercial carrier, and a reinvestment

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mandate that returns all network revenue to public safety improvements. We are concerned that some provisions of the proposed amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 7386, the "First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act," may inadvertently weaken the key elements driving FirstNet's success and that FirstNet's ability to deploy like it did in North Carolina may be compromised.

FirstNet is the most significant investment this nation has ever made in the communications infrastructure for the men and women who protect our communities. With the February 2027 expiration quickly approaching, we urge you to consider and favorably report a clean reauthorization for consideration by the full House.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of the views of the more than 6,000 members of the North Carolina State Fraternal Order of Police. If I can provide any additional information about this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chet Effler", is written over a horizontal line.

Chet Effler
North Carolina State Lodge President



3030 Potomac Avenue, Suite 600 | Alexandria, VA 22305, USA | 703.836.6767 or 1.800.THEIACP | theIACP.org

March 24, 2026

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

The Honorable Frank J. Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard L. Hudson, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Guthrie and Hudson and Ranking Members Pallone and Matsui:

On behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), representing more than 35,000 police leaders throughout the United States and globally, I would like to thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to strengthening public safety communications. We appreciate the diligent work that you and your staffs have invested in drafting H.R. 7386 and in supporting the future of the First Responder Network Authority.

The IACP is grateful for the Committee’s sustained focus on ensuring that first responders have reliable, mission-critical communications. As you know, FirstNet has become a foundational component of modern public safety operations, providing priority, preemption, and resilient connectivity that officers depend on every day. Your ongoing commitment to preserving this capability is deeply appreciated by the public safety community.

At the same time, we respectfully offer our perspective as the Committee continues its consideration of H.R. 7386. **The IACP urges that the legislation remains a clean reauthorization focusing on extending the FirstNet Authority and preserving its ability to serve the nation’s first responders without introducing new structural complexities.**

President
Director David B. Rausch
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

Immediate Past President
Chief Ken A. Walker (Ret.)
*West University Place, TX
Police Department*

First Vice President
Chief Special Agent Will Johnson
BNSF Railway Police Department

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Chief of University Police Cliff Block
*Saginaw Valley State University
Police Department*

General Chair, Midsize Agencies
Division
Chief Ron Campurciani
Mooresville, NC Police Department

Parliamentarian
Dr. Avice Evans Reid
Knoxville City Government (Ret.)

Executive Director/
Chief Executive Officer
Vincent Talucci, CAE
Alexandria, VA

Deputy Executive Director/
Chief Operating Officer
Terrence M. Cunningham
Alexandria, VA

FirstNet's effectiveness has always relied on its clarity of mission, streamlined governance, and responsiveness to state, local, tribal, and territorial public safety agencies. As Congress examines reforms to the Authority, we encourage caution toward provisions that could unintentionally complicate governance processes, slow operational decision-making, or diffuse accountability. Maintaining FirstNet's independence, self-sustainability, and agility is essential to ensuring the network continues to evolve in step with the needs of frontline personnel.

A clean reauthorization, one that extends FirstNet's authority, ensures stable and predictable governance, and avoids unnecessary administrative changes, will best preserve the network's core purpose: supporting those who protect our communities.

Thank you again for your thoughtful stewardship of this legislation and for your ongoing collaboration with the public safety community. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure advances and stand ready to provide any additional assistance you may require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Rausch', written in a cursive style.

David B. Rausch
President



National Congress of American Indians | 1516 P St NW, Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 466-7767 | www.ncai.org

February 19, 2026

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NORTHEAST

Rodney Butler
Mashantucket Pequot Tribe

NORTHWEST

Leonard Forsman
Suquamish Tribe

PACIFIC

Geneva Mojado
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Martin Charlo
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

SOUTHEAST

Lora Ann Chaisson
United Houma Nation

SOUTHERN PLAINS

Reggie Wassana
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma

SOUTHWEST

Raymond Aguilar
Pueblo of Santo Domingo

WESTERN

Julius Murray
Ute Indian Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Larry Wright, Jr.
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20003

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairmen Cruz and Guthrie and Ranking Members Cantwell and Pallone:

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), we urge prompt action by the U.S. Congress to strike the statutory sunset language in P.L. 112-96. NCAI supports reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority. The Authority is committed to improving public safety communications within Tribal Nations, by increasing access to justice for Native peoples. The FirstNet Authority has invested in research and development on technology solutions which lowered access barriers for public safety and equipped first responders with new technology to facilitate cross-agency communication and heighten situational awareness. NCAI passed a resolution supporting reauthorization at the NCAI Annual Convention in 2025, **SEA-25-033: Calling on Congress to reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) before its 2027 terminations to support tribal public safety and emergency operations**. I have enclosed the resolution for your records.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your commitment to public safety. Please do not hesitate to contact us if NCAI can be of assistance as reauthorization efforts move forward.

Sincerely,
Larry Wright (Ponca Tribe of Nebraska)
Executive Director
National Congress of American Indians

Cc: Members of the Senate Commerce Committee



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
 Chairman
 House Committee on Energy and Commerce
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
 Ranking Member
 House Committee on Energy and Commerce
 United States House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the national organizations representing the nation’s fire, emergency medical services, law enforcement, public safety communications, and emergency managers and the state and local government agencies that support them, we thank you for your leadership in developing this legislation to preserve the federal First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). Every day, FirstNet provides mission-critical communications so that local public safety officers can protect and provide lifesaving assistance to their citizens. We stand together in support of your amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R 7386, the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act of 2026 and urge members of the committee to support this network.

We thank you for your efforts to address the needs of the public safety officers that use FirstNet on a daily basis. In order to prevent the termination of FirstNet next February, the amendment would extend the life of the program to September 30, 2037. By increasing the representation of active public safety professionals on the FirstNet Board, the amendment would ensure that the FirstNet network that was built for public safety will continue to meet public safety's needs. The substitute amendment would reinforce the FirstNet Authority's ability to deploy emergency response capabilities and resources to emergencies and disasters; set strategic priorities for the network; develop an annual budget and outline reinvestment decisions; and manage the device and application ecosystem within the FirstNet network in a timely manner without bureaucratic interference.

The FirstNet network continues to demonstrate its effectiveness daily during both national disasters and daily calls for fire, EMS, or law enforcement assistance. It is important that this national resource is not allowed to expire. We look forward to working with you to pass this legislation in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

*International Association of Fire Chiefs
Congressional Fire Services Institute
International Association of Emergency Managers, U.S. Council
International Association of Fire Fighters
International City/County Management Association
Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
National Association of Counties
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Association of State Chief Information Officers
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Emergency Management Association
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
National Fire Protection Association
National League of Cities
National Volunteer Fire Council*

cc: The Honorable Richard Hudson, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and
Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

The Honorable Doris Matsui, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and
Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

: sa



CITY OF CORNING

500 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
CORNING, New York 14830-2874
Phone: (607) 962-0340

City Manager
Fax 962-0578

City Clerk / Registrar
Fax 962-0578

Finance
Fax 962-0578

Fire
Fax 962-4528

Planning & Econ. Dev.
Fax 962-0578

Police
Fax 936-1657

Public Works
Fax 962-0681

Senior Citizen Center
962-8000
Fax 962-8901

March 23, 2026

The Honorable Nick Langworthy
United States House of Representatives
Corning District Office
89 W. Market Street
Corning, New York 14830

RE: FirstNet Reauthorization

Dear Congressman Langworthy:

We are writing to express our support for H.R. 7386, the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act of 2026, and to respectfully encourage your support of this legislation.

FirstNet has become an essential component of the nation's public safety communications infrastructure. Today, FirstNet serves the communications needs of approximately 31,000 agencies through its 8 million subscriptions.

In the City of Corning, we use FirstNet for mission critical communications, including voice, text, and video. We also use FirstNet to stream police body worn camera video, supporting Mobile Data Terminals, and enabling interoperability between public safety and public works operations. These capabilities directly improve situational awareness, coordination, and response effectiveness. This network has become an integral component of our daily operations, not just during emergency incidents.

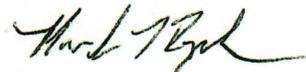
FirstNet's priority and preemption capabilities ensure that our first responders maintain access to communications even when commercial networks are congested. This is a core operational requirement for public safety.

H.R. 7386 appropriately addresses the upcoming 2027 sunset and provides continuity for a system that agencies nationwide now depend upon. The legislation reflects productive collaboration between Congressional staff and national public safety organizations. These improvements extend the authorization of FirstNet, increase representation of active public safety professionals on the FirstNet Board, and more clearly define the respective roles of NTIA, the Board, and FirstNet leadership. The bill establishes a clear framework in which NTIA provides oversight, the Board provides strategic direction and public safety input, and a career federal Associate Administrator manages day-to-day operations. It preserves FirstNet's ability to set strategic and investment priorities, develop budgets and reinvestment recommendations, manage the device and application ecosystem, and support the deployment of emergency communications capabilities in a timely manner consistent with public safety needs.

FirstNet has also significantly improved wireless broadband coverage across New York's 23rd Congressional District, particularly in rural and underserved areas, with additional expansion planned. Allowing this capability to sunset would significantly hamper public safety operations in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes Region of New York.

Thank you for your continued service and support of public safety.

Sincerely,



Mark L. Ryckman
City Manager and
Director of Public Safety



Kenzie Spaulding
Police Chief



Brad Davies
Fire Chief



The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chairman
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 24, 2026

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member,

As the committee prepares to advance reauthorization of the First Responder Network Authority (FNA), our organizations are disappointed that the recommendations we previously submitted to the committee regarding how to improve and enhance FNA operations for the benefit of all public safety were not considered or included.

As we previously communicated, the first responder communication landscape has dramatically shifted over the past decade. Regrettably, the measure before the committee does not improve FNA operations in a meaningful way.

Under this legislation, all of FirstNet Authority's multi-billion-dollar spending will continue to go to a single carrier, AT&T, continuing a system that does not allow for redundancies, to the detriment of public safety. We previously requested that Congress ensure that all infrastructure paid for with FNA funds is being used to the benefit of all public safety users, not just the customers of a single carrier. Unfortunately, that has not happened.

This measure also falls short on the question of accountability. As the members of the committee are surely aware, the Inspector General for the Department of Commerce has issued multiple reports highlighting a lack of transparency and accountability within FirstNet and particularly regarding AT&T's compliance with the FirstNet contract, including accusations that requested data was altered or not provided. This track record demands accountability.

Unfortunately, this measure does not deliver on this important issue. As a reminder, our specific recommendations were:

- Reporting on the use and capacity of Band 14.
- Providing a full range and categorization of FirstNet subscribers including public safety, fire, EMS, private companies, etc.
- Disallow the use of government funds to support contractors, events, and marketing for any carrier.

As the process moves forward, our members will continue to engage with lawmakers about the importance of advancing real reforms in this critical legislation. It is imperative that we use this opportunity to build a better FNA for the safety of communities nationwide.

Sincerely,



Laura Cooper
Executive Director
Major Cities Chiefs Association



Sheriff Chris,
Canadian County, OK
President
National Sheriffs Association

CC: The Honorable Richard Hudson, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

The Honorable Doris Matsui, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

PATRICK YOES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JIM PASCO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

23 March 2026

The Honorable S. Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank J. Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard L. Hudson, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and
Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Guthrie and Hudson and Representatives Pallone and Matsui,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to thank you for your continued leadership to advance legislation that would reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) before its statutory deadline of 22 February 2027. Our members, who serve on the front lines in communities throughout the nation, depend on FirstNet's reliable framework to perform their duties safely and effectively. To ensure the continued safety of these officers and our nation's public safety priorities, we strongly urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce to support and favorably report a clean reauthorization bill.

The foundation of FirstNet's success lies in its alignment with the practical demands of everyday public safety operations which are informed by the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). Prior to FirstNet's creation, law enforcement officers and other emergency responders across the country operated on a patchwork of incompatible, overburdened, and easily disrupted communications systems. The tragedy of September 11, 2001, showed our entire nation the devastating human cost of those failures. In response, Congress established FirstNet as a self-funding authority in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce with a clear mission: build, deploy, and operate a nationwide broadband network dedicated exclusively to public safety. Following a competitive selection process, AT&T emerged as the primary provider and secured a 25-year agreement in 2017. The network guarantees preferential treatment and override capabilities in crises, facilitating smooth collaboration among responders to safeguard lives and assets. With the February 2027 expiration quickly approaching, we commend your ongoing efforts to maintain this essential system for homeland security, crisis management, and routine public safety services and urge you to consider and favorably report a clean reauthorization for consideration by the full House.

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FirstNet provides a specialized nationwide platform utilized by over 31,000 public safety entities which handles nearly eight million connections—a subscriber base that has doubled in just the last three years. The network has been hardened against disaster, offering capabilities such as priority and preemption that push first responders to the front of the line when commercial networks are congested or overwhelmed. Its reliability has been proven time and again in catastrophes, high-stakes events, and security operations. For instance, the December 2024 House Task Force analysis of the Butler, Pennsylvania, event emphasized that officers using FirstNet experienced no major disruptions in service, ensuring continuous high-priority links for numerous responders amid the turmoil. The Task Force’s report noted that during the incident “law enforcement personnel with FirstNet cellular service did not have notable interference with their connectivity.”

Ongoing legislative scrutiny has spotlighted FirstNet's accomplishments alongside areas ripe for enhancement. The 28 January 2026 Senate Subcommittee hearing on Telecommunications and Media, entitled "Frontline Connectivity: Assessing FirstNet's Impact on Public Safety," underscored its benefits while identifying paths for further development.

Congress’ certainly has a role in evaluating FirstNet's operations and identifying where improvements are needed and the FOP will continue to share insights from law enforcement officers whose lives depend on these critical communications systems. From our perspective, the governance model in current law provides FirstNet with a dedicated Public Safety Advisory Committee, a long-term partnership with a commercial carrier, and a reinvestment mandate that returns all network revenue to public safety improvements. We remain concerned that some provisions of the proposed amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 7386, the “First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act,” may inadvertently weaken the key elements driving FirstNet’s success.

Certain provisions in the bill and the amendment could impose redundant governmental oversight, heighten procedural burdens, and escalate expenses without tangible advantages for public safety. Overall, these proposed changes to the statute could hinder FirstNet's primary objectives and introduce uncertainties that jeopardize emergency operations, community protection, and public safety. FirstNet, insulated from short-term commercial, bureaucratic, and political pressures, is highly accountable to the public safety community it serves and, in our view, is the right structure for a network that American lives depend upon. The FOP believes clean authorization is what is needed as we approach next year’s deadline.

The FOP supports robust accountability and transparency, which are key elements to ensure that FirstNet continues to provide life-saving communications to law enforcement officers and other emergency responders. FirstNet already faces rigorous scrutiny through yearly disclosures, evaluations, audits, and assessments by its Board, the Commerce Department's Inspector General, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Congress, NTIA, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Unnecessary redundancies in governance would shift focus from technological advancements and upgrades to mere regulatory adherence, yielding no direct gains for public or officer safety.

Other provisions in the draft bill seem to broaden compatibility rules in manners that might compromise specialized systems and reduce priority for responders in critical moments. These issues recall the coordination gaps noted by the 9/11 Commission, which FirstNet was built to fix. Past Board Chairs have cautioned that integrating FirstNet into larger bureaucratic structures could revive old weaknesses, marginalize frontline input, and delay vital choices. As Sheriff Michael Adkinson, Jr., Acting Chair of the FirstNet Authority (FNA) board, testified at a recent Senate hearing, appropriate oversight is welcomed, but he cautioned against creating a diffusion of responsibility—what he described as a “tyranny of the commons...when it becomes everybody’s responsibility it becomes no

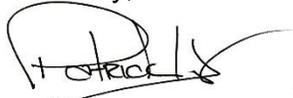
one's responsibility." We agree with Sheriff Adkinson that these governance provisions could weaken accountability and urge the Committee to instead consider and pass a clean reauthorization.

The urgency of reauthorization cannot be overstated—the statutory deadline is less than eleven months away. A lapse would create profound legal and operational uncertainty for FirstNet, its commercial partner AT&T, and the thousands of public safety agencies that have built their communications strategies around the network. Agencies making procurement decisions today need confidence that FirstNet will continue without interruption.

When the Committee marks up H.R. 7386 this week, the FOP advises against unnecessary, overly prescriptive, or duplicative requirements that could hinder FirstNet's operational effectiveness. We encourage the Committees to consider a clean reauthorization that eliminates the expiration clause and strengthens the PSAC's role to provide direct feedback to the FirstNet Board about public safety operations and the communications capabilities needed by law enforcement officers and other emergency responders. When our members are responding to an active shooter, a multi-vehicle accident needing a broad range of emergency responders, or a natural disaster impacting a large area, they need to be completely confident that their communications network will work — that when they call for backup, backup will hear them and assist. FirstNet is the most significant investment this nation has ever made in the communications infrastructure for the men and women who protect our communities. Allowing that investment to lapse or to be weakened through diluted governance authority would be a profound failure of our obligation to those officers and the public they serve.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of the views of the more than 382,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police. If I can provide any additional information about this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,



Patrick Yoes
National President

cc: Scott Hildebrand, President, Kentucky State Lodge
Shawn Helbig, National Trustee, Kentucky State Lodge
Bob Fox, President, New Jersey State Lodge
Kevin Vernon, National Trustee, New Jersey State Lodge
Chet Effler, President, North Carolina State Lodge
Dennis McCrary, National Trustee, North Carolina State Lodge
Roger Hilton, President, California State Lodge
Matt Heady, National Trustee, California State Lodge



National Congress of American Indians | 1516 P St NW, Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 466-7767 | www.ncai.org

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SEA-25-033

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Mark Macarro
Pechanga Band of Indians

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

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Mashpee Wampanoag

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Christie Modlin
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

TREASURER

Ashley Cornforth
*Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux
Community*

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

ALASKA

Brian Ridley
Native Village of Eagle

EASTERN OKLAHOMA

Joe Deere
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS

Ryman LeBeau
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

MIDWEST

Wendy Merrill
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

NORTHEAST

Rodney Butler
Mashantucket Pequot Tribe

NORTHWEST

Leonard Forsman
Suquamish Tribe

PACIFIC

Geneva Mojado
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Martin Charlo
*Confederated Salish & Kootenai
Tribes*

SOUTHEAST

Lora Ann Chaisson
United Houma Nation

SOUTHERN PLAINS

Reggie Wassana
*Cheyenne and Arapaho
Tribes of Oklahoma*

SOUTHWEST

Raymond Aguilar
Pueblo of Santo Domingo

WESTERN

Julius Murray
Ute Indian Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Larry Wright, Jr.
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Title: Calling on Congress to reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) before its 2027 terminations to support tribal public safety and emergency operations

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the ability of any nation to enact, enforce and interpret its own laws and be governed by them is one of the most recognized powers of any sovereign. To ensure the Tribal Nations can safeguard against any criminal activity, natural disasters, and national security threats, it is imperative that Tribal Nations have both the jurisdiction and the resources needed to keep tribal communities safe and secure for everyone; and

WHEREAS, NCAI advocates to strengthen Tribal law enforcement, improve coordination between federal agencies working for and within Indian Country, and urge the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Interior (DOI), and all other federal agencies to live up to their trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations; and



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WHEREAS, NCAI is committed to improving public safety within Tribal Nations, increasing access to justice for Native peoples, and protecting the health and well-being of tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, in response to the communication challenges that hindered public safety's response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to address the longstanding communications issues facing public safety, the U.S. Congress, in 2012, created the federal First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority), set aside Band 14 spectrum, and provided up to \$7 billion in spectrum auction proceeds to provide a dedicated network for our country's first responders; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI plays an important role in the FirstNet Authority's governance structure with NCAI representation on the statutorily created Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and NCAI involvement in the FirstNet Authority Tribal Advisory Group (TAG), which advises the PSAC and FirstNet Authority Board of Directors on the needs of public safety serving Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the FirstNet Authority has a Tribal consultation policy to govern government-to-government consultation between federally recognized Tribal Nations and the federal FirstNet Authority; and

WHEREAS, the FirstNet Authority has a mission to develop a nationwide wireless broadband network with rural coverage requirements to ensure the network effectively serves first responders across the country, including those serving tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, Tribal lands have disproportionately been underserved by broadband investment, and limited grant funding and other resource constraints have made it difficult for many Tribal Nations to fully equip their public safety and emergency personnel with the necessary technology and communication capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the FirstNet Authority required its private sector partner, AT&T, to meet rural buildout requirements, with the initial phase of FirstNet network buildout making progress to expand FirstNet coverage in tribal communities, resulting in a 65 percent increase in FirstNet wireless coverage on tribal lands between 2018 – 2023 and more than 565 new FirstNet cell towers serving Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the FirstNet public-private partnership provides public safety users with a dedicated fleet of FirstNet portable cell towers for use during planned events and emergency incidents, including, but not limited to, support for tribal public safety during a search and rescue on the Yankton Sioux Nation, COVID-19 responses at the Navajo Nation and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Nation, and planned events at the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Cow Creek, Umpqua Nation; and



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WHEREAS, the FirstNet Authority has invested in research and development on technology solutions, which has lowered access barriers for public safety and equipped first responders with new technology to facilitate cross-agency communication and heightened situational awareness; and

WHEREAS, while significant progress has been made to expand FirstNet wireless coverage on tribal lands, future investment by the FirstNet Authority should continue, so the network can be expanded to Tribal Nations that remain unserved and underserved; and

WHEREAS, the FirstNet Authority announced plans in February 2024 for additional investments in wireless coverage, including more than \$2 billion for wireless coverage over the next ten years with a focus on U.S. borders and in tribal, territorial, and rural communities that have disproportionately been unserved and underserved by commercial cellular carriers; and

WHEREAS, public safety and emergency response personnel serving Tribal Nations perform a critical function protecting and serving tribal citizens and those living, working and visiting tribal lands, and these brave men and women should have access to the necessary communications tools and reliable, secure, and dedicated connectivity to support their important missions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI urges prompt action by the U.S. Congress to strike the statutory sunset language in P.L. 112-96; and

BE IT RESOLVED, NCAI supports reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority to continue critical investments in FirstNet wireless broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, including on Tribal lands, and

BE IT RESOLVED, to maintain the representation by NCAI and other regional and public safety Tribal organizations within the FirstNet program governance structure to ensure the needs of Tribal first responders to inform the future operation and evolution of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.



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CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2025 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held November 16 to 21, 2025 at the Seattle Convention Center in Seattle, Washington, with a quorum present.


Mark Macarro, President

ATTEST:


Christie Modlin, Recording Secretary

Stockbridge-Munsee Community

BAND OF MOHICAN INDIANS

TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICES

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20003

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairmen Cruz and Guthrie and Ranking Members Cantwell and Pallone:

I serve as the representative for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) on the FirstNet Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) and the President of the Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohican Indians. In my role on the FirstNet TAG, I also participate in the statutorily established FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) -- representing the interests of Tribal Nations. I am proud of NCAI's involvement in the FirstNet Authority's governance structure, advising the PSAC, FirstNet Board of Directors, FirstNet Authority, and the FirstNet contractor on the needs of public safety serving Tribal Nations.

Tribal lands have disproportionately been underserved by broadband investment, and limited grant funding and other resource constraints have made it difficult for many Tribal Nations to fully equip their public safety and emergency personnel with the necessary technology and communication capabilities. The FirstNet program has made significant progress to address these challenges – by expanding access to wireless broadband to previously underserved areas and increasing the availability of advanced technology solutions for public safety serving Tribal Nations.

As directed by the United States Congress, the FirstNet Authority has a mission to develop a nationwide wireless broadband network with rural coverage requirements to ensure the network effectively serves first responders across the country, including those serving tribal communities. In the initial phase of FirstNet network buildout, significant progress was made to expand FirstNet coverage in tribal communities, resulting in a 65 percent increase in FirstNet wireless coverage on tribal lands between 2018 – 2023 and more than 565 new FirstNet cell towers serving Tribal Nations.

On behalf of NCAI, I have enclosed the resolution approved at the NCAI Annual Conference in November 2025:

SEA-25-033: "Calling on Congress to reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) before its 2027 terminations to support tribal public safety and emergency operations."

As stated in the resolution, NCAI urges prompt action by the U.S. Congress to strike the statutory sunset language in P.L. 112-96. NCAI supports reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority to continue critical investments in FirstNet wireless broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, including on Tribal lands, and to maintain the representation by NCAI and other regional and public safety Tribal organizations within the FirstNet program governance structure to ensure the needs of Tribal first responders continue to inform the operation and evolution of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network.

We appreciate the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce as your committees evaluate FirstNet's progress and future. NCAI stands ready to work with you and your colleagues to ensure that FirstNet continues to meet the needs of Tribal Nations and all first responders nationwide.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your commitment to public safety. Please do not hesitate to contact us if NCAI can be of assistance as reauthorization efforts move forward.

Sincerely,



Shannon Holsey, President – Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohican Indians

NCAI Representative
Tribal Advisory Group, FirstNet Authority
Public Safety Advisory Committee, FirstNet Authority

Cc: Members of the Senate Commerce Committee
Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee
Mike Adkinson, Acting Chair, FirstNet Authority Board of Directors
Arielle Roth, Assistant Secretary, NTIA, U.S. Department of Commerce
Larry Wright, Jr., Executive Director, National Congress of American Indians