

Opening Statement of Chairman Brett Guthrie
Full Committee
Public Safety Communications Markup
Wednesday, March 25th, 2026

Thank you all for being here today as we prepare to consider two bills that would strengthen our ever-important public safety communications infrastructure.

Many of us have seen natural disasters up close and personally in our districts, and our constituents deserve the best version of the infrastructure and alert systems we are considering today.

In moments of crisis, every American must be able to trust that our networks are strong and reliable. FirstNet is a central part of that mission, and why I am looking forward to advancing the bipartisan First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act today.

That's why it's so important that we remove the legislative ambiguity currently plaguing the program, while preserving the importance of the FirstNet Board and the voices of first responders.

Since our hearing and markup in the beginning of February, we have worked tirelessly with first responders and public safety officials to incorporate wide-ranging edits and technical assistance to make this bill as strong as possible.

We have run a very open process, and we truly appreciate their efforts to engage with us and find common ground wherever possible in this reauthorization.

I would also like to thank the sponsors of this bill, Representatives Dunn and McClellan, for their leadership and commitment to improving accountability, reliability, and transparency in the FirstNet program.

Our markup today also includes the Mystic Alert Act, led by Representative Pfluger, which will facilitate the use of satellite alerts to quickly convey information about potential threats in areas where traditional cell service may not be available.

On so many issues, the Energy and Commerce Committee is the place where we are able to work in a bipartisan way and advance strong, commonsense legislation. So, I'll close by thanking Ranking Member Pallone and his staff for working closely with us to advance these joint priorities.

I yield back.

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