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RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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January 3, 2014

Mr. Stu Davis
State Chief Information Officer
Assistant Director
Ohio Department of Administrative Services
30 E. Broad Street, 39th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology on November 21, 2013, to testify at the hearing entitled "Oversight of FirstNet and the Advancement of Public Safety Wireless Communications."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions by the close of business on January 17, 2014. Your responses should be e-mailed to the Legislative Clerk in Word format at Charlotte.Savercool@mail.house.gov and mailed to Charlotte Savercool, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

cc: Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Attachment

Attachment — Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Anna Eshoo

1. When Congress passed the Public Safety and Spectrum Act last Congress, our goal was to address many of the challenges that have faces public safety for decades, including the lack of a vibrant competitive marketplace for public safety-grade devices; limited innovation; and exorbitant device costs. Do you believe that your state's first responders will benefit from FirstNet's solutions to the challenges faced by legacy systems?

The Honorable Henry Waxman

1. At the hearing, you explained that your state is constantly struggling with how to lower the cost for public safety users to participate in Ohio's Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS). Following the hearing, I reviewed MARCS' website and was surprised to see the cost for public safety users to participate. For example, not only are MARCS' subscribers responsible for purchasing and maintaining their own proprietary, costly equipment, but they are also charged an annual \$240 service fee. All of this for radios that have minimal data capability and lack full nationwide interoperability. See <http://das.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=P63AjWGSBVY%3d&tabid=124>.

Let's be clear, FirstNet has the potential to provide public safety users with a number of benefits that they have never had before, including national-level bargaining power and national-level economies of scale. Undoubtedly, FirstNet's users will have significantly lower device costs than what MARCS currently offers. Further, these devices will be standards-based and fully interoperable on a nationwide basis. FirstNet will also deliver technologies that are far more advanced than the products MARCS offers. I hope that you plan to take advantage of this golden opportunity and do everything possible to work with FirstNet to make it a success. That said, could you please explain what steps you plan to take to work with FirstNet to ensure that public safety users in Ohio have access to affordable and technologically-advanced communications equipment and services?