



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE 911 ADMINISTRATORS

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair, House Committee on
Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Bob Latta
Chair, House Subcommittee on
Communications and Technology

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, House Committee
on Energy and Commerce

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

On behalf of the National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA), we are reaching out to you about your upcoming hearing on March 10, 2023; “Defending America’s Wireless Leadership.” NASNA appreciates the importance of establishing effective spectrum policies and the relationship of those policies to national security. However, we believe ensuring effective emergency response systems for our citizens is equally important to our nation’s security and safety. Fortunately, the two are not mutually exclusive.

Last year, Congress considered legislation as part of the Omnibus bill that would have advanced both of these important goals. It would have extended the FCC’s auction authority and established a spectrum pipeline to promote continued U.S. leadership in wireless communications, while also using the proceeds from spectrum auctions to provide funding for Next Generation 911 (NG911) for US states, tribal nations, and territories. We strongly supported that legislative framework late last year, and we urge Congress to consider it this year.

Our nation’s 911 systems are vital to our citizens, visitors, and our nation’s infrastructure. Each and every day, people across the country depend on our 911 systems to get the help they need. However, most of our 911 systems today rely on outdated technologies that can’t meet the requirements of today’s digital communications systems. As NASNA members work to maintain the present legacy 911 systems while working our way to NG911, we see the legacy systems failing at an increasing rate, which places our citizens and our nation’s security at risk. Nationwide implementation of NG911 must be considered a national priority. Enactment of the legislative framework considered last December would ensure that it is.

As your Committee considers spectrum policies in the current Congress, we urge you to please include provisions that would use spectrum auctions to fund NG911. Federal funding is needed to ensure that all citizens across the country have access to effective, reliable, and secure emergency response systems. A failure to address this critical issue puts our nation at risk.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harriet Rennie-Brown", with a stylized, flowing script.

Harriet Rennie-Brown

Executive Director, NASNA

Cc: House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology