

Majority

1. A May 10, 2023, letter to Chairwoman Rosenworcel regarding FCC Broadband Data Collection from Members of Congress.
2. A May 19, 2023, thank you letter to Chair Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.
3. A May 23, 2023, thank you letter to Reps. Hudson and Eshoo on H.R. 1784 from NASNA.
4. A September 30, 2022, joint letter to Alan Davidson from Sen. Wicker and Chair Rodgers regarding BEAD.
5. A May 23, 2023, letter to Senators Cantwell and Cruz, and Representatives Rodgers and Pallone from former FCC leaders.

Minority

6. A statement for the Record of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, regarding NG911.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0902

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel,

We write to express our concerns regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Broadband Data Collection. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, signed into law in November 2021, included the largest investment in broadband deployment and adoption in U.S. history. This includes \$42 billion in funding for the National Telecommunications and Information's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. The BEAD program provides federal funding to states and territories for broadband deployment. BEAD prioritizes unserved locations and the FCC's new Broadband DATA Act maps will be used to identify locations.

Given the power of these maps, we have concerns that the FCC's pre-production draft of the national broadband maps lacks the accuracy necessary to fully inform the state-level allocations for the BEAD program. It takes significant time and resources to review the map and prepare challenges to it. Governments, providers, and constituents in our districts report that they need additional time and assistance to fully adapt to this new reporting and stakeholder engagement process. Further, counties have found that engaging the public in the stakeholder process behind submitting the individual challenges is time-consuming and requires significant public education on how the Broadband Data Collection system works.

If the status quo remains, the Broadband Data Collection process may not receive the stakeholder engagement that the Broadband DATA Act envisioned, and ultimately, critical funding may be misallocated and not reach the communities that need it most.

To address these concerns, we respectfully ask for the following:

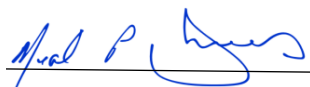
- Strengthen your outreach to state and local governments on technical assistance to those interested in verifying availability and location data within their jurisdiction on a consistent basis.
- Elevate public outreach and education opportunities for members of the public who would like to participate in the individual challenge process contained within the Broadband Data Collection process.

- Clarify that enforcement action is possible against broadband providers that knowingly misrepresent their service or service areas.

We understand that mapping broadband is not an easy task; but the maps must be right given the amount of money at stake. If funding is misallocated due to mapping issues, the unserved and underserved locations that the BEAD program prioritizes will be left unfunded and without internet access. We need to have accurate maps and accurate funding.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

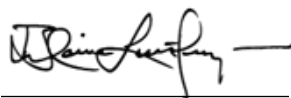
Sincerely,



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Mike Ezell
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Drew Ferguson
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Laurel Lee
Member of Congress



International Association of Fire Chiefs

8251 Greensboro Drive, Suite 650 • McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703.273.0911 • IAFC.org

May 19, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chair Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the nearly 11,000 members of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I wanted to thank you for holding a legislative hearing examining the oversight and reauthorization of the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA). I want to call attention to two pieces of legislation that are being considered: H.R. 3366, introduced by Representative Lizzie Fletcher, would remove the 2027 termination date for the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) and the *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act of 2023* (H.R. 1784), introduced by Representatives Richard Hudson and Anna Eshoo. Both pieces of legislation are vital to members of the public safety community.

The FirstNet Authority was created as a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission to serve as the nation's dedicated public safety broadband communications network. It was created to address the problems in public safety communications that were identified in the 9/11 Commission Report. Currently, the FirstNet Authority has 4.7 million connections in more than 25,000 public safety agencies. Ever since its creation in 2012, the FirstNet Authority has aided in saving countless number of lives. Just this year alone, the FirstNet Authority has helped support over 550 emergency operations assisting in the response to all types of disasters. Congress must move quickly to ensure our first responders stay connected by preventing the FirstNet Authority's termination in 2027.

The *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act of 2023* (H.R. 1784) would allocate \$15 billion dollars to fund the nationwide transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1). Our nation's 9-1-1 system is over 50 years old. It urgently needs modernization. As technological innovations have brought improvements to the nation's fire and emergency service, our nation's 9-1-1 service must follow suit. The transition to NG 9-1-1 will allow Emergency Communications Centers (ECC) to receive data, video, text, and pictures, as well as voice communications. This information will give local fire chiefs a better understanding of the incident scene and allow them to make decisions that will save lives and property. H.R. 1784 also will fund cybersecurity improvements to protect the nation's NG 9-1-1 system and training to make sure that the ECC staff can triage information to relay critical information to the first responders on scene.

We urge your swift action on H.R. 3366 and H.R. 1784, *the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act of 2023*. The IAFC thanks the House Energy and Commerce Committee for considering these important pieces of legislation as part of your hearing. We look forward to working with you to meet the communications needs of America's first responders.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief Donna M. Black, EFO, CFO
President and Board Chair

cc: The Honorable Bob Latta, Chair, Communications & Technology Subcommittee
The Honorable Doris Matsui, Ranking Member, Communications & Technology Subcommittee

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE 911 ADMINISTRATORS

May 23, 2023

Dear Communication and Technology Subcommittee Chair and Subcommittee Members,

The National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) wants to thank Representatives Hudson and Eshoo for their ongoing efforts to provide funding for Next Generation (NG911) through HR 1784. NASNA continues to support this effort and remains focused on updating our nation's 911 system based on the NENA i3 standards-based system architecture. Since the first 911 call was made in 1968, the nation's 911 system has been deployed, managed, and maintained at the state and local level.

Who NASNA is.

The National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) are the states' leadership of 911 across the country. NASNA's 49 member-states represent our states on the public policy issues impacting the successful implementation of 911 systems. We are experienced, knowledgeable, and respected leaders in the 911 field. We are not lobbyists. We are the people responsible to design, implement, and manage Next Generation 911 (NG911) across the country. As part of that work, our role is to inform and educate the public and policy makers on sound processes to support the lifesaving progress of 911 services.

911 is NASNA's singular focus.

NASNA was founded in 1994 to be the voice of the states on public policy issues impacting 911. Together, state 911 leaders provide their expertise to assist each other and professionals at all levels of government. We address complex issues surrounding the evolution of emergency communications. Every member of our association is considered a subject matter expert in the 911 field. We are resourceful and adept at navigating the technical, regulatory, and policy landscapes required to move NG911 forward. We pride ourselves on the collective work we have done thus far, and the work we are doing now and for the future. The NASNA member states are making great strides in planning, building, and maintaining effective NG911 systems across the country even though that task is difficult in the face of limited resources, political challenges, and increased public expectations of 911 services.

NASNA's immediate concerns.

NASNA would like to voice strong and urgent concerns about two bills coming before the subcommittee. The first is HR 6768, the FirstNet Reauthorization. Recent reports from the Inspector General and feedback from individual states suggest that additional information and oversight from Congress should be considered before permanently establishing FirstNet.

The second, and equally concerning to NASNA, is the draft bill known as *NTIA OPSC* (included below), which expands NTIA's authorization. The proposed language would establish NTIA as the sole entity responsible for public safety communications and 911 nationwide. The bill does not properly recognize the role that state and local agencies have in designing, deploying, and

maintaining public safety communications and 911 systems. Furthermore, the proposed language does not recognize the authority that other federal agencies like DHS, NHSTA, DoD, FCC, and DISA have related to public safety communications and 911. The involvement and partnership of these agencies has been instrumental in the success and progress of 911. We have significant concerns that a sea-change to federal oversight by a sole entity will hamper the longstanding responsibility and operations of state and local public safety communications systems, including 911.

NASNA urges that efforts are made to retain state and local control of these critical communication systems.

Respectfully Submitted
On behalf of the NASNA Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harriet Rennie-Brown".

Harriet Rennie-Brown
Executive Director, NASNA

Enc: NTIA OPSC Discussion Draft

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

September 30, 2022

The Honorable Alan Davidson
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson:

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program presents a historic opportunity to close the digital divide. Under this program, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will award \$42.45 billion to eligible states and territories for broadband deployment. As NTIA begins working with these entities, we urge the agency to require states and territories to work with their local governments to streamline permitting processes to expedite and reduce barriers to deployment.

As you know, broadband providers must obtain permits to access the poles, rights-of-way, and appropriate infrastructure needed for deployment. Burdensome and costly permitting requirements, lengthy review timelines, insufficient staff to review and process permitting applications, and other regulatory red tape can drastically delay and even discourage deployment, which may foreclose access to affordable broadband services. Many of these barriers are established by local governments. With inflation already raising costs, we cannot afford to waste time and resources on needless bureaucracy when we should be building networks. Without action, we worry that deployments will take longer and be more expensive, leaving more Americans on the wrong side of the digital divide.

We are encouraged that BEAD's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) asks states to identify steps to "reduce costs and barriers to deployment, promote the use of existing infrastructure, promote and adopt dig-once policies, streamlined permitting processes and cost-effective access to poles, conduits, easements, and rights of way."¹ Likewise, the NOFO correctly encourages states and territories, and their subdivisions, to "remove time and cost barriers associated with BEAD projects, including by expediting permitting timelines and waiving fees where applicable, where doing so does not undermine other critical policy goals."² Merely encouraging and promoting these actions, however, is not enough. As NTIA reviews state plans, it should, consistent with its authority to "establish local coordination requirements,"³

¹ "Notice of Funding Opportunity, Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program," National Telecommunications and Information Administration at 32 (rel. May 13, 2022).

² *Id.*

³ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. 117-58, Div. F, Title I § 60102(e)(3)(A)(ii).

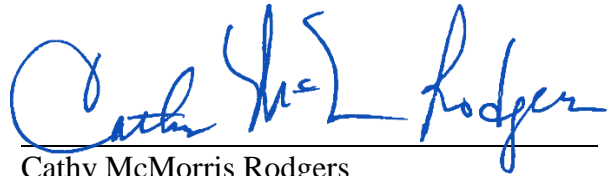
require states and territories to work with local governments to adopt streamlining policies that reduce the burdens associated with obtaining permits. This will ensure broadband projects are carried out in a timely manner, consistent with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. NTIA should also set a high bar for the “other critical policy goals” that states and localities can use to justify burdensome permitting regulations so that the exception does not become the rule.

This is an opportunity for our country to close the digital divide, but doing so will require cooperation from state and local governments. Removing unnecessary and costly barriers to deployment is key to the success of the BEAD program. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
U.S. Senate



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chair Cantwell, Chair McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member Cruz, and Ranking Member Pallone:

As former leaders of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), we have worked together, on a bipartisan basis, to lay the foundation for America's global wireless leadership. Although our policy priorities at times differed, we share an understanding that central to Americans' wireless success is the FCC's spectrum auction authority. That authority helped herald an unprecedented and thriving U.S. wireless ecosystem, enabling wireless providers to deliver mobile connectivity throughout the country, changing how Americans work, live, and play, and establishing the U.S. as a focal point for innovation and mobile commerce. Yet despite this success and bipartisan support, the FCC's auction authority lapsed on March 9, 2023—for the first time in history. Your Committees have been champions for wireless and for auctions, and we urge Congress to restore the agency's spectrum auction authority as soon as practicable.

The FCC pioneered spectrum auctions thirty years ago and has held 100 spectrum auctions since then, generating more than \$233 billion in revenue for the federal government. Wireless providers have deployed auctioned spectrum to build next-generation networks, connecting Americans from anywhere and on the go, and advancing U.S. enterprise, while driving the creation of more than 4 million jobs. This success was recognized when America's spectrum auction architects were awarded with a Nobel Prize in 2020. Today, spectrum auctions are the preferred method to assign spectrum across the globe, making the absence of U.S. auction authority even more startling.

Failure to renew the FCC's spectrum auction authority augurs troubling consequences. With greenfield spectrum difficult to identify, spectrum auction authority is a critical building block in the complex and time-consuming process to reallocate spectrum to new uses. Auction proceeds can fund government agencies to relocate bands with upgraded systems, helping to maintain U.S. global leadership in the wireless ecosystem. Delay in renewing auction authority risks ceding a global competitive advantage to other countries, particularly China, which has been aggressively making spectrum available for 5G and investing in next-generation wireless technologies to

capture global markets. This all at a time when our national security and global economic leadership are increasingly at risk from hostile nations. Reinstating auction authority is vital to addressing these issues and ensuring U.S. leadership before global standard-setting fora and the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference.

We therefore urge Congress to pass a bipartisan solution that reinstates the FCC's spectrum auction authority and avoids the unnecessary threats to the thriving wireless ecosystem that we worked to support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ajit Pai

Tom Wheeler

Mignon Clyburn

Julius Genachowski

Meredith Attwell Baker

Robert McDowell

Deborah Taylor Tate

Jonathan Adelstein

Michael Copps

William Kennard

Harold Furchtgott-Roth

Gloria Tristani

Rachelle Chong

Susan Ness

Reed Hundt

Dick Wiley

Statement for the Record of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo
H.R. 1784, the *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act*
House Subcommittee on Communications & Technology
May 23, 2023

9-1-1 is a lifeline for Americans in their greatest hour of need. In an emergency, few things are more important than these three numbers when it comes to getting help. And it can often be the difference between life and death. After the horrific attacks on September 11, 2001, I co-founded the E-911 Caucus with Representative John Shimkus and Senators Hillary Clinton and Conrad Burns to support first responders and the public safety community by moving our nation's 9-1-1 services into the 21st Century. Unfortunately, we have not reached our goal and most of the United States' 9-1-1 call centers continue to use legacy technology developed over 50 years ago. The *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act* will create a grant program to help state and local governments deploy NG911 systems across the U.S.

Next Generation 9-1-1 will harness the power of 21st Century technology to respond to 21st century emergencies. It will allow our 9-1-1 emergency communication centers to receive real-time location information, text messages, photos, and video from individuals at the scene of an emergency, and to share that information with first responders. It will also make our emergency communication centers more secure, resilient, interoperable, and reliable.

The benefits of this technology will help save lives. If someone breaks into your home and you're hiding from the intruder, you won't need to call 9-1-1 to speak to an operator. You can text 9-1-1 to summon help while you continue to hide. You will be able to send pictures or live stream video from the scene of a car accident or a home fire to help first responders better respond to the emergency.

I'm pleased it has the support of a broad coalition of law enforcement and public safety organizations, including the Major County Sheriffs of America; the Major Cities Chiefs Association; the National Sheriffs' Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the International Association of Fire Chiefs; the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association; the National Association of State EMS Officials; the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials; the National Association of State 911 Administrators; and the National Emergency Number Association.

I thank Rep. Richard Hudson, my co-chair of the NG911 Caucus for working with me on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.