

**Opening Statement of Chairman Brett Guthrie**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
*Public Safety Communications Markup*  
**Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 9 AM**

Thank you, Chairman Hudson, for holding this important markup. Today, we will vote on several critical pieces of legislation to improve public safety communications in the United States.

In previous hearings, we have heard about how these bills would strengthen public safety and help our nation's first responders better serve those in crisis. We heard directly from first responders and emergency management officials about the technologies they utilize, their effectiveness, and where improvements are needed. We also heard from industry leaders about the technologies they provide and how that technology can provide critical tools for public safety.

The message was clear: reliability is non-negotiable. Regardless of the technology or service provider, first responders need certainty that their equipment will perform in the heat of a crisis and that they have reliable connectivity

wherever they are. Several of these bills will ensure additional redundancies in communications and provide for new technologies to enhance communication reliability.

As I've mentioned before, my home state of Kentucky has recently faced significant flooding and tornadoes, similar to what my district experienced just a few years ago. I have seen firsthand how reliable access to communications infrastructure is critical for our first responders and communities during emergencies.

The legislation we are marking up today, six bills, includes several bipartisan legislative solutions to strengthen our public safety and ensure our first responders have the tools they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. These bills will make important improvements to Next Generation 911 technology deployment, wireless, emergency alerting, outage reporting, and more. When seconds can save or cost lives, our constituents need the best.

I want to thank each of the sponsors of these bills—both Republicans and Democrats—for their work and commitment to improving public safety for first responders and all Americans. I look forward to moving these bills through our process and signed into law.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.