

**Opening Statement of Chairman Brett Guthrie**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
***First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act Markup***  
**Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 2 PM**

Thank you, Chairman Hudson, for holding this important markup. Today, we will take the first vote to advance the First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act.

This legislation will ensure that FirstNet is reauthorized for another 10 years. The bill also makes reforms to improve transparency, accountability, and leadership, but also ensures longevity and continued development of this network as technology evolves.

I want to reiterate Chairman Hudson's comments that there is still work to be done on this legislation. We are continuing to hear from public safety groups and other stakeholders about ways to improve certain provisions in this legislation, and we will continue to work with them in good faith to improve the bill.

We want to ensure that our first responders have the reliable communications network when they need it most. Natural disasters, like the tornadoes and floods that have devastated Kentucky in recent years, disrupt communications

networks, cutting people off from resources and information in critical moments. Our work today is meant to ensure that FirstNet delivers a reliable, resilient network for public safety so they can do their jobs in those emergency situations.

I want to thank the sponsors of these bills—Representatives Dunn and McClellan—for their work and commitment to improving public safety for first responders and all Americans. I know there is more work to be done here, and I look forward to seeing the finished legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.