



June 4, 2025

Dear Senate Commerce Committee Members,

As associations representing and serving the public safety community, we urge you to ensure the safety and security of our nation by providing federal funds to support the nationwide deployment of Next Generation 911 (NG911). Current 911 systems are woefully outdated, relying on analog technologies that are decades old. These systems are less reliable, less secure, and more challenging to maintain while attempting to meet the expanding needs of emergency responders and the citizens who need their help.

Last Congress, a bipartisan agreement was established to achieve this critical objective by allocating a portion of spectrum auction revenues for the nationwide deployment of NG911. Unfortunately, that legislation did not move forward, due to issues unrelated to the 911 component of the bill. While the reconciliation legislation pending before Congress includes important spectrum auction provisions, it does not provide NG911 funding. We acknowledge the needs of the day, particularly regarding the federal deficit and tax cuts, but Congress cannot ignore the importance of investing in a nationwide upgrade to 911. These technologies are critical to keep our communities safe and our nation secure. Therefore, Congress must fully fund nationwide deployment of NG911 technology through spectrum auction revenues or other means.


The need for prompt action comes at a time when the nation has tragically witnessed the consequences of failing to fund improvements in critical infrastructure. The government's failure to invest in more advanced and secure technology upgrades at the Federal Aviation Administration places our citizens at risk, and the same is true for our nation's 911 systems. While it is important to count dollars saved towards the deficit, a lack of funding for NG911 will be counted in lives lost. Paradoxically, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act increases national defense spending, while ignoring 911 emergency communications. Our 911 infrastructure is the first link in any emergency situation especially in times of national emergencies or terrorist attacks. Indeed, the very notion of "See Something, Say Something" is ingrained in Americans at a young age to report any suspicious activity. It is impossible to maintain a strong national defense without a resilient 911 system.

Regrettably, despite the widespread adoption of advanced communication technologies by the public, our nation's 911 systems lack funding to deploy them. These outdated systems cannot protect our nation against cyberattacks and threats from malicious actors, both foreign and domestic. Critical investments in new technologies are urgently needed to modernize our

911 systems and safeguard the public and the nation. Full, nationwide deployment of NG911 must be a national priority.

As the Senate begins debating the reconciliation bill, we urge the Committee to ensure the safety and security of our communities by providing the essential funds for the nationwide deployment of NG911. The time to act is now—our communities cannot afford any further delay in building a safer, more resilient 911 system.

Sincerely,



Mel Maier
CEO & Executive Director
APCO International



Don Brittingham
Interim Executive Director
iCERT



Harriet Rennie-Brown
Executive Director
NASNA



Brian Ludes
CEO
NENA

CC. Leader Thune
CC. Minority Leader Schumer