



June 16, 2010

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Boucher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications,
Technology, and the Internet
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cliff Stearns
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications,
Technology, and the Internet
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman, Chairman Boucher, Ranking Member Barton and Ranking Member Stearns:

The universal availability of secure, reliable, priority access and public safety grade broadband communications is critical to the advancement of emergency medical care for patients in the United States. The best way to assure this availability is to allocate the 700 MHz D block to public safety for use in conjunction with the 700 MHz broadband spectrum licensed to the national public safety broadband license holder and to coordinate both sets of spectrum through that license holder and its public safety representative board. This availability will not be served by trying to hold another commercial auction of the 700 MHz D block.

As national organizations representing emergency medical service (EMS) provider agencies, professionals, and EMS system and service officials, we wish to emphasize that the potential provided by new field EMS diagnostic and treatment technology is impeded by the limitations of the narrowband communications systems we have used, basically without change, since the early 1970's. We believe that EMS may well become one of the biggest users of public safety broadband to bring lifesaving capabilities to our patients.

We support enactment of legislation such as that introduced by Representative King of New York, the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2010 (H.R. 5081).

While the Federal Communications Commission's National Broadband Plan proposes to provide public safety roaming and priority access on other commercial 700 MHz networks for a fee, this proposal relies on untested technologies and new regulations that cannot ensure reliable and resilient communications

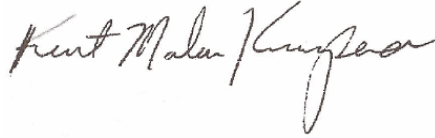
capabilities to meet stringent public safety needs. Therefore, we also oppose the FCC's proposal to hold another commercial auction for the D Block.

We urge you to support reallocation of the D block to ensure that this one time opportunity to develop a nationwide interoperable network for public safety is not lost.

Sincerely,




President
Association of Air Medical Services



President
Advocates for Emergency Medical Services



President
Emergency Nurses Association



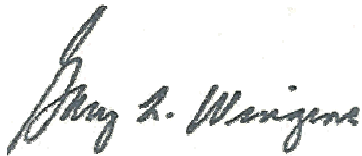
President
National Association of Emergency Medical Services Physicians



President
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians



President
National Association of State Emergency Medical Service Officials



President
National Emergency Medical Services Management Association

cc:

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
Jamie Barnett, Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission