



# ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

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January 19, 2026

**The Honorable Deb Fischer**

Chair, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media

United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

**The Honorable Ben Ray Luján**

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media

United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

RE: Support for FirstNet Reauthorization

**Dear Chair Fischer and Ranking Member Luján:**

FirstNet has become an essential operational capability for public safety agencies nationwide. It supports frontline response, large scale incidents, disaster coordination, and daily mission critical communications. Its reliability is directly linked to the governance and oversight structure established by Congress in 2012.

We strongly support reauthorization of FirstNet consistent with that original statutory design and do not support changes to its governance or management oversight framework.

Congress deliberately vested authority in an independent FirstNet Authority with substantial public safety representation. This structure ensures that operational realities, responder safety, and mission requirements guide decisions rather than short term administrative or political considerations. Stability and predictability are essential for communications systems relied upon during emergencies.

The City of Ann Arbor relies on this platform daily for routine public safety mobile data and communications. It has become indispensable during major events in the city, including those at Michigan Stadium, to ensure seamless connectivity and coordination.

Thank you for your continued support of public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Kennedy".

Mike Kennedy

Fire Chief, Ann Arbor Fire Department