

June 12, 2025

Congressman Gus Bilirakis
Inverness District Office
212 W. Main Street, Suite 208A
Inverness, FL 34450

Dear Congressman Bilirakis,

I write to you today not only as a law enforcement leader, but as someone who's stood shoulder to shoulder with first responders during some of the toughest moments this region has faced hurricanes, flooding, evacuations, and long nights spent protecting Floridians during times of crisis. In each of those moments, communication is everything. Seconds matter. And for those of us on the front lines, FirstNet has become nothing short of essential.

As you know, FirstNet was built from the lessons of 9/11 a network dedicated solely to first responders and public safety professionals. Since its inception, it has transformed the way we coordinate emergency response, especially here along Florida's Gulf Coast, where storms are growing in strength and frequency. We've come to rely on FirstNet's resilience, priority access, and the deployable assets that ensure we stay connected when it matters most.

But this critical tool is now at risk. Unless Congress reauthorizes FirstNet, the very foundation of this nationwide public safety network could be dismantled. That would not only put our communications at risk, it would put lives at risk.

Congressman, I urge you to be a champion for Florida's first responders. Stand with us to protect and reauthorize FirstNet. We need this network — and we need your voice to make sure it remains intact. Thank you for your steadfast support of law enforcement and public safety. If I can provide additional perspective from the front lines or answer any questions about FirstNet's value here in Citrus County, I would welcome the opportunity.

Sincerely,



Sheriff David E. Vincent