



Josh Stein, Governor

Eddie M. Buffaloe Jr., Secretary

November 24, 2025

The Honorable Richard Hudson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Hudson:

I support Congressional reauthorization of the First Responder Network Authority. As a dedicated advocate for public safety and emergency response, I have witnessed firsthand the role FirstNet has played in enhancing the capabilities and coordination of first responders, especially during disaster situations in North Carolina.

There are many examples of how FirstNet has provided a dedicated, reliable, and interoperable connectivity during times of crisis.

Most recently, during **Hurricane Helene in 2024**, the heavy rains caused widespread flooding in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee.

The FirstNet Response Operations Group (ROG) responded to hundreds of requests from public safety jurisdictions across the state and region to maintain coverage for first responders in storm-impacted areas. In addition, FirstNet was a critical support to 9-1-1 functionality in parts of the state. As another telecom provider continued to work to restore communications infrastructure in the months following the storm, FirstNet served as the primary communications for the Madison County PSAP.

Our regional response to Helene was the largest mobilization in FirstNet's history, ensuring first responders, law enforcement, and emergency personnel in communities across multiple states could communicate efficiently and effectively.

FirstNet has also supported North Carolina's response to wildfires, missing persons searches, and large public events. Law enforcement, fire departments, and EMS agencies



512 N. Salisbury Street Raleigh, NC 27604 | 4201 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-4201

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across the state have come to depend on FirstNet's mission-critical solutions to keep our communities safe.

Reauthorizing the FirstNet Authority's statutory oversight is essential to sustaining and expanding this life-saving network. This technology is built for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. North Carolina's first responders rely on FirstNet, and thanks to the FirstNet Authority, our feedback and input helps tailor FirstNet to our specific needs. We are proud to be engaged in making FirstNet better. We don't take that responsibility lightly. Neither should Congress. We hope Congress and the President pass legislation to reauthorize FirstNet.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this vital matter.

Sincerely,



Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr.  
Secretary/Homeland Security Advisor