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The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chairman  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 26, 2026

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member,

FirstNet is the most significant and deliberate broadband improvement for Public Safety authorized by Congress to ever be administered. Through the 2012 Middle Class Relief Act, Congress recognized the profound opportunity and ability to improve first responder communications across all disciplines that have saved lives and improved the quality of service provided by Public Safety.

Through the infinite wisdom of the law makers who created this legislation, they outlined the creation of the FirstNet Board and the FirstNet Authority that would specifically and impartially direct the development of this nationwide effort.

I submit this letter not as an uninterested bystander, but as an individual who has spent years promoting and developing a statewide FirstNet program. I am currently the New Hampshire Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), the Single Point of Contact for FirstNet, and a retired New Hampshire State Police Commanding Officer who had authority over Troop Operations that witnessed firsthand the challenges of Public Safety Communications. I know the significance of what FirstNet has provided for multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplined communications under the guidance and dedicated efforts of the FirstNet Authority directed by the FirstNet Board.

The ability to communicate is the life source of any Public Safety agency. Increasing and enhancing that capacity provides for greater officer safety, not do so, is unthinkable.

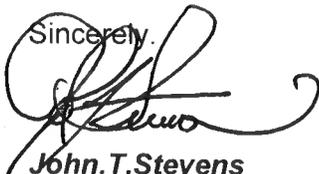
My experience has taught me to be acutely aware of my surroundings. To be aware of the consequences and address the measures that can avoid any potential loss, or unnecessary hardship. I have witnessed the many actions firsthand that the FirstNet Board has addressed nationwide for all of Public Safety. I have hosted the FirstNet Board here at the University of

New Hampshire where Governor Sununu participated in a collaborative discussion to enhance Public Safety Communications. I have been extremely fortunate to witness their care and concern for the Public Safety community. I know their commitment to Public Safety because it's direct, not channeled, nor affected by unnecessary legislation, because Congress gave them that authority. I was excited when nearly two years ago the FirstNet Board announced their ten-year Re-Investment Plan to enhance and increase the FirstNet footprint nationwide. The obvious conclusion meant continued growth in next generation communications technology. We were at the cusp of 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology that would not only improve Public Safety Communications, but it would elevate services and save lives.

I recently had the opportunity to address the FirstNet Board over my concerns that the FirstNet Re-Investment Plan and the funds associated have not moved forward, leaving many states like New Hampshire confused as to the reasons why. Delaying the FirstNet overall agenda certainly has its consequences. Attaining no definitive answer, it became clear to me that the Board no longer operates in an autonomous posture, no longer as the legislation that created this Board to act and no longer, or currently, has the authority to act. It has become obvious that under the tutelage of NTIA the Board has now been stripped of their authority and their power to act. This is not the intention of the 2012 Middle Class Relief Act legislation which intentionally made separate FirstNet as a quasi-federal entity assigned within NTIA, yet free to work on behalf of the Nation's first responders. You cannot expect Public Safety nationwide to be held in abeyance and affect the safety of our first responders unnecessarily.

I am familiar that FirstNet is subject to "Sunset" litigation in 2027. I am not so naive to believe that the delay in this process is not intended. It is my understanding that legislation has been promulgated to continue this most important venture under the current and most effective platform for the continuance of public safety and their ability to utilize enhanced communications technology. The success of the FirstNet Board's oversight of the FirstNet agenda has been exemplary and testament to its stewardship. I strongly encourage NTIA to allow FirstNet to be administered as it was intended and allow the Board to exhibit its continued overwhelming success in providing the Public Safety community with 21<sup>st</sup> Century communication tools it so richly deserves. Not to do so, places the lives and safety of our Nation's first responders and the communities they serve unnecessarily in jeopardy. My ask, on behalf of Public Safety nationwide, is to take into consideration the success of FirstNet and to allow the Board to continue its work, unincumbered by unnecessary and restrictive NTIA policy decisions that delay and alter this incredibly important initiative.

Sincerely,



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