



February 3, 2026

United States House Energy Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Congressman Brett Guthrie, Chairman
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Submitted via e-mail

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

As Sheriff of Seminole County, Florida, I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for the reauthorization of FirstNet, the nation's public safety broadband network. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office is a FirstNet user and serves as an integral part of how we support daily law enforcement and broader policing operations, as well as how we respond to emergencies throughout our community.

FirstNet provides the reliable, prioritized, and preemptive communications our deputies depend on during critical incidents, large-scale events, and major emergencies, particularly when commercial networks become strained or unavailable. These capabilities directly impact officer safety, situational awareness, and our ability to coordinate effectively with other public safety partners.

From an operational standpoint, FirstNet has proven its value by supporting modern public safety tools that improve response times and decision-making in the field. Its public-private partnership model also ensures continued innovation and reliability without imposing an additional financial burden on local agencies or taxpayers.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to support the timely reauthorization of FirstNet to provide long-term stability and certainty for the public safety community. Maintaining a resilient, dedicated communications network is essential to ensuring first responders can continue to protect the communities they serve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dennis M. Lemma'.

Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma
Seminole County, Florida

DML:bwb