



May 28, 2026

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
United States Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Strong Support for the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Reauthorization**

Dear Senator Sullivan,

I am writing to you today as a constituent and a supporter of Alaska's public safety community to respectfully urge your full support for the swift reauthorization of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). It is critical that the Senate moves forward to eliminate or extend the statutory sunset before the program expires in early 2027.

In a vast and geographically isolated state like ours, dependable communications are quite literally the difference between life and death. Traditional terrestrial radio networks provide a vital foundation, but Alaska's topography, climate, and limited road infrastructure mean that our emergency personnel face challenges unmatched anywhere else in the nation.

The ongoing evolution of the FirstNet network has fundamentally transformed how Alaskan first responders operate. By integrating cutting-edge technologies - most notably satellite-augmented cellular capabilities - FirstNet ensures that emergency crews can establish high-speed data and voice pathways even in the most remote areas of our state.

By augmenting our existing traditional radio infrastructure rather than replacing it, FirstNet builds an invaluable layer of redundancy. It ensures that our state is robustly prepared for the next major natural disaster - a crisis we all hope will never come, but one for which we must be unconditionally ready.

FirstNet has proven its concept and its immense value to the nearly 30,000 public safety agencies relying on it nationwide. It deserves the long-term statutory certainty required to keep investing in next-generation upgrades like 5G and satellite integration.

Thank you for your tireless advocacy for Alaska's infrastructure and your continued commitment to our first responders, military personnel, and rural communities. I hope we can count on your leadership in the Senate to secure FirstNet's future.

Sincerely,

Frank P. Bracken

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Alaska Fire Chief's Association