



# Girdwood Fire Department

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Office of Legislative Counsel

United States Senate

Washington, D.C.

Dear Legislative Counsel,

I am writing to express my strong support for Reauthorizing the FirstNet Authority, with particular emphasis on its vital importance to the Girdwood Fire Department in Girdwood, Alaska. FirstNet plays a critical role in enhancing emergency response, disaster preparedness, and community resiliency in our region, which faces unique and significant challenges.

The Girdwood Fire Department serves a diverse and sometimes hard-to-reach area marked by rugged terrain, severe weather conditions, and an increasing number of natural disasters. In these circumstances, reliable and dedicated communication networks are essential for first responders to coordinate rapidly and effectively. FirstNet's specialized network provides the priority access and reliable connectivity required during emergencies, ensuring that fire, medical, and rescue personnel can operate efficiently and save lives.

Moreover, the unique environment of Alaska demands robust disaster preparedness tools. FirstNet supports our ability to respond seamlessly to wildfires, avalanche incidents, severe storms, and other emergencies that threaten both residents and visitors alike. By maintaining operational continuity through FirstNet, the Girdwood Fire Department strengthens community resilience and reduces risk to public safety.

FirstNet's reauthorization will not only sustain this indispensable communication infrastructure but will also enable continued advancements that keep pace with evolving threats and technologies. Supporting this legislation is a critical step to safeguarding the health and safety of Alaskans and the nation.

For these reasons, I urge Senator Dan Sullivan to support the Reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority. Its continuation will profoundly benefit emergency responders and the communities they serve throughout Alaska and across the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Manch Garhart*

Manch Garhart  
Deputy Fire Chief  
Girdwood Fire and Rescue