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Jayson Andrus, 1st Vice President
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Western Rep, Sean Slamon
Eastern Rep, Matt Petersen
Southern Rep, Kelly Blackmon
WFCA Rep, Ryan Sommers
Past President, Mike Brown

1966-2026 Celebrating Six Decades of Commitment to Nevada's Fire Service

June 15, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Deb Fischer
Chair, Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
Ranking Member Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Support for Reauthorization of the First Responder Network Authority

Dear Chair Cruz and Chair Fischer:

The Nevada Fire Chiefs Association represents over 500 leaders from agencies across Nevada. Our members are committed to advancing the protection of life, property, and the environment through leadership, education, and advocacy. On behalf of our members, I write to express our strong support for the reauthorization of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority).

As leaders of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and its Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media, you play a central role in ensuring the continuity and advancement of the nation's only dedicated public safety broadband network.

The FirstNet Authority was established by Congress in 2012 following communication challenges identified during major national emergencies, including the September 11, 2001, attacks. Congress created the FirstNet Authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide first responders

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with a secure, interoperable, and resilient communications network designed specifically for public safety operations.

Since its inception, the FirstNet Authority has successfully met its congressional mandate. The Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) was completed on schedule and within budget, providing reliable, prioritized, and preemptive broadband communications to more than 30,000 public safety agencies across over 2.99 million square miles of coverage. It operates under a fiscally responsible, self-sustaining funding model, requiring no ongoing appropriations from Congress. It has been called the single most successful public private partnership in the history of the United States.

The operational oversight and structure of the FirstNet Authority Board, which includes both public safety and industry leaders, ensures accountability, transparency, and continued innovation. The Authority's success has resulted in a trusted ecosystem of public safety applications, devices, and solutions that enhance situational awareness and coordination during complex incidents.

Reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority before the 2027 deadline is essential to maintaining the operational integrity and modernization of this network. The United States Government Accountability Office has emphasized that failure to reauthorize the Authority would jeopardize the sustainability of the network and undermine the confidence of the first responder community.

The Las Vegas community has witnessed firsthand the operational value of FirstNet. Large scale events like Formula 1, Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC), the Superbowl, and NYE on the Las Vegas Strip all utilize FirstNet to maintain dependable communications and prioritize the needs of first responders.

In support of a unified public safety effort, the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association respectfully urges the Committee and Subcommittee to take prompt action to reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority. Doing so will reaffirm Congress's commitment to public safety and ensure that America's first responders continue to have the reliable and interoperable communications network they need to protect the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief
Reno Fire Department

President
Nevada Fire Chiefs Association