



9-1-1 INDUSTRY ALLIANCESM

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March 23, 2008

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman – Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-224- 3479

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member – Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-228-1229

Dear Senator Leahy and Senator Specter:

In 1996, the Federal Communications Commission ordered wireless carriers to provide mobile 911, the ability to determine the location of a wireless caller. Since that time, mobile E911 has saved countless lives and property and has become a vital public service.

Patent lawsuits recently filed by different plaintiffs against all of the major cellular carriers all assert that the federally mandated provision of location based E911 infringes upon their patents which is an attack on the United States first responder network and its ability to serve its citizens.

While we express no opinion as to the validity of these patents, the ability of plaintiffs to assert (after so many years have passed since the service was created) that an essential, mandated government function such as E911 infringes upon any patents greatly concerns us. We are confident you recognize the incredible harm to our citizens and our economy that would result from a significant disruption to or the loss of mobile E911 services.

We are also aware that S515, a patent reform bill, is before the Senate Judiciary Committee, and that a clarification of 28 U.S.C. 1498 has been proposed for inclusion in this bill. We rely upon you to craft an immediate and permanent solution to this matter as our nation's E911 system must be protected from frivolous patent suits.

Kind regards,

9-1-1 Industry AllianceSM

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Robertson".

Jeff Robertson
Executive Director
911 Industry Alliance

CC: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee