



**Empower Public Safety,
Together.**

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair, House Committee on Energy and
Commerce

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, House Committee on
Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Bob Latta
Chair, House Subcommittee on
Communications and Technology

The Honorable Doris Matsui
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on
Communications and Technology

On behalf of the Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT), I write to you in reference to the House Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing scheduled for March 10, 2023: “Defending America’s Wireless Leadership.” iCERT agrees with the Committee Chair that commercial spectrum policy is national security policy. Wireless innovation has always been a significant driver in the development of advanced communications systems to promote national security. Providing a spectrum pipeline for the future is a necessary and critical step in ensuring that U.S. global leadership in this area continues.

Enabling continued wireless innovation, however, is not the only way that effective spectrum policies can promote national security. By extending the FCC’s authority to auction spectrum licenses, Congress can use auction proceeds to advance other critical national security objectives. One such objective was included in the Spectrum Innovation Act of 2022 (H.R.7624), which passed the House last year on a strong bipartisan basis. That legislation would have funded the nationwide implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911) to ensure our nation’s emergency response systems are effective, reliable, and protected against cyber threats.

While H.R.7624 was not considered by the Senate, comparable provisions were considered as part of a draft “four corners agreement” to be included in the Omnibus spending bill last December. Those provisions would have established a sound spectrum policy framework to secure our nation’s wireless future, while also funding NG911 and other priorities. iCERT strongly supported that legislative framework and was disappointed it was not ultimately included in the Omnibus bill which passed. We continue to believe these provisions warrant strong support again as the Energy and Commerce Committee considers spectrum policy in the current Congress.

Our nation’s 911 systems are critical parts of our national security infrastructure. Their effective and reliable operations are a national imperative. Unfortunately, most of our 911 systems today rely on outdated technologies that are increasingly failing and susceptible to cyber-based attacks.

Put simply, they place our citizens, our communities, and our nation at risk. Prompt attention to this critical issue is necessary to ensure our nation is safe and secure. Nationwide implementation of NG911 must be a national priority, and we urge Congress to fully fund its deployment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Kelemen", written in a cursive style.

George Kelemen
Executive Director