



November 21, 2013

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Eshoo:

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association for global manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers of information and communications technology, wishes to thank you for holding an oversight hearing this week regarding the deployment of FirstNet, the national public safety broadband network. TIA appreciates FirstNet's actions to date – its leadership has been effective in starting the complex process of developing the network, while implementing statutory requirements for interoperability and for sourcing through a competitive, multi-vendor procurement process.

TIA and its member companies in the ICT industry are committed to ensuring that the nation's first responders will benefit from state-of-the-art technology. FirstNet holds the promise of creating a rich ecosystem of broadband applications while exploiting economies of scale. The use of voice, graphics, video, and database integration – such as real-time exchange of building blueprints – each offer the promise of transforming how police, fire, and other first responders carry out their missions.

To realize these benefits, Congress must ensure that FirstNet is adequately funded. This includes ensuring that the \$7 billion in funds allocated to FirstNet from the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 becomes available as planned. To that end, Congress should continue to urge the FCC to promptly and effectively implement the voluntary incentive auction of television broadcast spectrum, with a special focus on broadcaster outreach in the top 10 markets where the potential auction revenue from bidders is at its highest.

For more information, please contact Danielle Coffey at (703)-907-7734 or by email at dcoffey@tiaonline.org. TIA once again thanks you for holding this important oversight hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant E. Seiffert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grant E. Seiffert
President