

**National Governors Association  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
The Council of State Governments  
National Association of Counties  
National League of Cities  
The U.S. Conference of Mayors  
International City/County Management Association**

April 14, 2010

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Boucher  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications,  
Technology, and the Internet  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cliff Stearns  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications,  
Technology, and the Internet  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515


Dear Chairman Waxman, Chairman Boucher, Ranking Member Barton and Ranking Member Stearns:

As national organizations representing state and local government officials, we request that you oppose a commercial auction of the 700 MHz D block and support legislation to reallocate the D block of spectrum to public safety. The utilization of broadband technology is crucial to the future of public safety and will enhance the ability to save lives by quickly sharing information with first responders, public institutions and private citizens. Allocating the D block directly to public safety is the only way to ensure a robust, modern and reliable nationwide interoperable network.

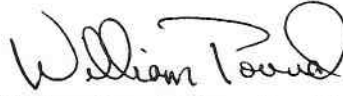
For years, state and local first responders have sought to build a national interoperable communications network that allows real-time information sharing through high speed video and data. This requires an appropriate, dedicated band of spectrum that can accommodate the everyday needs of firefighters, police officers and emergency medical personnel, as well as provide excess capacity during times of emergency. The 700 MHz D block finally provides this opportunity. While the Federal Communications Commission's National Broadband Plan proposes to provide public safety roaming and priority access on other commercial 700 MHz networks for a fee, this proposal relies on untested technologies and new regulations that cannot ensure reliable and resilient communications capabilities to meet stringent public safety needs.

We urge you to support reallocation of the D block to ensure this one time opportunity to develop a nationwide interoperable network for public safety is not lost.

Sincerely,



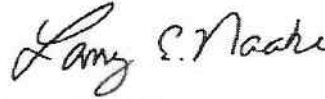
Raymond C. Scheppach, Executive Director  
National Governors Association



William Pound, Executive Director  
National Conference of State Legislatures



David Adkins, Executive Director  
The Council of State Governments



Larry E. Naake  
Executive Director, National Association of  
Counties



Donald J. Borut, Executive Director  
National League of Cities



Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
United States Conference of Mayors



Robert J. O'Neill, Executive Director  
International City/County Management Association

cc: The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
The Honorable John Kerry, Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
The Honorable John Ensign, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
Jaime Barnett, Chief, Homeland Security and Public Safety Bureau, Federal Communications Commission