



The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chairman
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 24, 2026

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member,

As the committee prepares to advance reauthorization of the First Responder Network Authority (FNA), our organizations are disappointed that the recommendations we previously submitted to the committee regarding how to improve and enhance FNA operations for the benefit of all public safety were not considered or included.

As we previously communicated, the first responder communication landscape has dramatically shifted over the past decade. Regrettably, the measure before the committee does not improve FNA operations in a meaningful way.

Under this legislation, all of FirstNet Authority's multi-billion-dollar spending will continue to go to a single carrier, AT&T, continuing a system that does not allow for redundancies, to the detriment of public safety. We previously requested that Congress ensure that all infrastructure paid for with FNA funds is being used to the benefit of all public safety users, not just the customers of a single carrier. Unfortunately, that has not happened.

This measure also falls short on the question of accountability. As the members of the committee are surely aware, the Inspector General for the Department of Commerce has issued multiple reports highlighting a lack of transparency and accountability within FirstNet and particularly regarding AT&T's compliance with the FirstNet contract, including accusations that requested data was altered or not provided. This track record demands accountability.

Unfortunately, this measure does not deliver on this important issue. As a reminder, our specific recommendations were:

- Reporting on the use and capacity of Band 14.
- Providing a full range and categorization of FirstNet subscribers including public safety, fire, EMS, private companies, etc.
- Disallow the use of government funds to support contractors, events, and marketing for any carrier.

As the process moves forward, our members will continue to engage with lawmakers about the importance of advancing real reforms in this critical legislation. It is imperative that we use this opportunity to build a better FNA for the safety of communities nationwide.

Sincerely,



Laura Cooper
Executive Director
Major Cities Chiefs Association



Sheriff Chris,
Canadian County, OK
President
National Sheriffs Association

CC: The Honorable Richard Hudson, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

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