



Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies, Inc.
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October 2, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science &
Transportation

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy & Commerce

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Committee on Energy & Commerce

The Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) writes to strongly urge you to provide critical funding for Next Generation 911 (NG911) systems. Such funding is necessary to ensure that the nation's first responders have the most technologically advanced emergency response systems possible to protect and serve the public. The vital need for advanced emergency response capabilities is especially evident as the nation continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, a public crisis that is all-encompassing and unprecedented.

iCERT is a trade association representing those private sector companies that develop and deploy emergency response systems, services, and equipment for state and local government agencies. For the past few years, iCERT has worked with the nation's largest public safety organizations to accelerate the implementation of NG911 through increased federal funding. We were encouraged to see the *Next Generation 9-1-1 Act* introduced in both the House and Senate last year (H.R.2760 and S.1479) but those bills have received little attention in recent months. Now is the time for our nation to invest in the advanced emergency response systems that our first responders and the public desperately needs.

Our nation's emergency responders have always faced enormous challenges, but the COVID-19 crisis is challenging the nation's emergency responses resources in a much more profound way. Never before have state and local government agencies faced a national crisis of this scale,

affecting all states and localities simultaneously. First responders and 911 authorities need all of the tools available to address these and future challenges, and NG911 utilizes state-of-the-art technologies to provide emergency response services that are more advanced, more flexible, and more resilient than current 911 systems.

The current pandemic demonstrates the critical importance of having advanced emergency response systems. iCERT urges Congress to act promptly to fund NG911 so that first responders across the country have the resources they need to protect and serve the public.

Respectfully,

/s/ Kim Robert Scovill

Executive Director

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