



**Empower Public Safety,  
Together.<sup>SM</sup>**

November 22, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
United States Senate

Dear Leader Schumer and Chairwoman Cantwell:

On behalf of the Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT), I write you today to urge you to include funding for Next Generation 911 (NG911) in the Build Back Better Act and to ensure that the program is fully funded for the benefit of all Americans.

NG911 is an advanced emergency response communications system that will provide emergency responders – and the public they serve – with a modern, interoperable, and secure system for connecting to the nation’s emergency response services. These advanced systems are critically needed because many of the nation’s 911 systems are woefully outdated; unable to support the evolving communications needs of the public and ill-equipped to provide the improved resiliency that is necessary to ensure effective communications during times of need.

The Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376), passed by the House of Representatives on November 19, 2021, includes NG911 provisions that would establish a national framework to ensure new NG911 systems are implemented in a manner that is interoperable and secure. We appreciate that the House recognized the importance of NG911 by including it in the Build Back Better Act, however the \$470 million of funding provided falls far short of what is needed to support nationwide implementation.

Earlier in the year, Senator Amy Klobuchar and Senator Catherine Cortez Masto introduced legislation (S. 2754) that would provide \$10 billion for NG911, an amount that we believe is the minimum necessary to support nationwide implementation. iCERT strongly supports this bill, and we urge you to pass the Build Back Better Act with NG911 provisions that ensure full funding so that communities and first responders across the nation can realize the enormous public safety and security benefits that NG911 offers over the decades-old legacy systems in place today.

In recent years, our nation has faced increasing risks from a variety of natural and man-made disasters that place increasing pressures on emergency responders. Advanced, interoperable, and secure emergency response systems are vitally important to their efforts and to our citizens, our communities, and our nation. We urge Congress to act swiftly to ensure the Build Back Better Act includes funding to make nationwide NG911 a national priority.

Respectfully submitted,

George F. Kelemen  
Executive Director