

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

January 28, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Our Committee has a proud history of offering strong bipartisan support to our nation's first responders. In this spirit, we write to support the Commission's efforts to establish indoor location accuracy rules for 9-1-1 calls.

We encourage you to adopt a technology-neutral solution that leverages available technologies. Such a solution will not only be grounded in solving today's problems with today's solutions, but will account for and anticipate the myriad ways in which these needs might evolve in the future. Most emergency calls are no longer made from landline phones. On average, more than two-thirds of all calls to 9-1-1 are made from wireless phones. However, if these wireless calls are made indoors, no location standards apply. This gap in the nation's 9-1-1 policies can delay first responders and much worse, cost lives.

The Commission's work over the last year, combined with the efforts of public safety communications professionals and wireless carriers, will help provide first responders the information they need to help those in need: a dispatchable location. These location identifiers are essential for public safety, law enforcement, and emergency services professionals to respond as quickly as possible in the direst moments.

We have heard concerns that the FCC is considering rules that would lock public safety into using a single, proprietary technology for providing indoor locations. If this is true, we would urge you instead to consider solutions that can operate across multiple technologies and platforms and are not tethered to a single technology.

The Commission's successes when it refrains from choosing technology winners and losers are many. Whether one looks at the Commission's decision to allow CDMA and GSM to compete for wireless market share or to its current work to create regulatory parity for broadband

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access platforms, where the Commission has removed technology mandates and allowed innovation, the market has charted a winning course.

Thank you for your continuing work to improve our nation's public safety communications systems.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Frank J. Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member