



NORTH CAROLINA STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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Chet Effler
State President

Lynn S. Wilson
State Secretary

23 March 2026

The Honorable Richard L. Hudson, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hudson,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the North Carolina State Fraternal Order of Police to thank you for your continued leadership to advance legislation that would reauthorize the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) before its statutory deadline of 22 February 2027. Our members, who serve on the front lines in communities throughout our great State, depend on FirstNet's reliable framework to perform their duties safely and effectively. To ensure the continued safety of these officers and our nation's public safety priorities, we strongly urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce to support and favorably report a clean reauthorization bill.

The foundation of FirstNet's success lies in its alignment with the practical demands of everyday public safety operations which are informed by the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC). In North Carolina, during Hurricane Helene in September 2024, we witnessed firsthand just how effective and resilient FirstNet is. Despite staggering destruction, North Carolina's 9-1-1 call centers remained operational throughout the crisis. During the three days of peak devastation emergency telecommunicators answered nearly 90,000 calls, a 55 percent surge over normal volume, without a single systemic communications failure. That outcome was not accidental. Since 2023, the North Carolina 9-1-1 Board has partnered with the FirstNet Authority to build a highly resilient IP-based emergency services network, with FirstNet providing redundant connectivity that automatically rerouted calls when individual centers lost power or connectivity. In city after city — from Murphy to Manteo — the FirstNet Response Operations Group deployed assets to hospitals, emergency operations centers, fire departments, and the airport that served as the primary conduit for relief supplies into the hardest-hit areas. There were no reported outages, coordination failures, or FirstNet performance deficiencies. FirstNet performed exactly as Congress intended.

From our perspective, the governance model in current law provides FirstNet with a dedicated Public Safety Advisory Committee, a long-term partnership with a commercial carrier, and a reinvestment

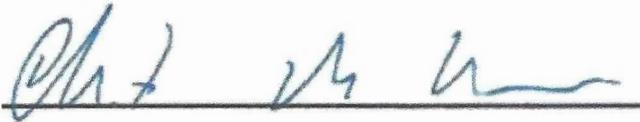
-- BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION --

mandate that returns all network revenue to public safety improvements. We are concerned that some provisions of the proposed amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 7386, the "First Responder Network Authority Reauthorization Act," may inadvertently weaken the key elements driving FirstNet's success and that FirstNet's ability to deploy like it did in North Carolina may be compromised.

FirstNet is the most significant investment this nation has ever made in the communications infrastructure for the men and women who protect our communities. With the February 2027 expiration quickly approaching, we urge you to consider and favorably report a clean reauthorization for consideration by the full House.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of the views of the more than 6,000 members of the North Carolina State Fraternal Order of Police. If I can provide any additional information about this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chet Effler", is written over a horizontal line.

Chet Effler
North Carolina State Lodge President