



# KENTUCKY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

• 6204 Price Lane • Louisville KY 40229

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23 March 2026

The Honorable S. Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Kentucky 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 Commonwealth, 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). When catastrophic flooding devastated eastern Kentucky in July 2022—one of the worst natural disasters in the Commonwealth's history, killing more than 45 people and displacing thousands—FirstNet deployable assets were on the ground within hours. A Satellite Cell on Light Truck (SatCOLT), communications vehicles, and Compact Rapid Deployables were rushed into Breathitt, Knott, Perry, and surrounding counties, restoring connectivity for law enforcement, search and rescue teams, and emergency managers in terrain where commercial infrastructure had been entirely washed away. 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 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



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weaken the key elements driving FirstNet's success and that FirstNet's ability to deploy like it did in Kentucky in July 2022 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 11,000 members of the Kentucky State Fraternal Order of Police. If I can provide any additional information about this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott Hildebrand  
Kentucky State Lodge President