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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 18, 2009

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, CREDIT,
ENERGY, AND RESEARCH
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AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS,
FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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WARN
PR
JG
1901*

Dear Secretary Napolitano and Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to request that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) explore the potential benefits for the American public of including FM radio tuners in mobile telephone handsets.

The Warning Alert and Response Network ("WARN") Act of 2006 authorized the commercial mobile telephone industry to create an emergency alerting system. It is my understanding that incorporating FM radio tuners in mobile phones could help achieve this goal through the use of infrastructure and technology that is currently in place and widely available in the marketplace.

Radio's emergency alert system (EAS) is a proven, reliable service. In addition, there are well over seven hundred million cell phones with FM radios globally. Currently, only a handful of FM radio enabled cell phone tuners are in the U.S. market. The adoption of this technology around the world is proof of its popularity with consumers, usefulness and technological feasibility.

Accordingly, I encourage both DHS and FCC to consider extending Americans' access to radio EAS information via mobile telephone handsets. Everyone involved, including the American public and public safety officials, as well as the mobile phone and broadcasting industries, stands to benefit.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hereth Sandlin
Stephanie Hereth Sandlin
Member of Congress

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