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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3202

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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

CHAIRMAN, COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS

The Honorable Thomas E. Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I would like to convey my strong support for the proposed rule recently released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on “Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements.” It is vital that we give law enforcement and first responders the tools they need to keep our communities safe – and improving 9-1-1 location accuracy can help save lives, stop crimes, and improve response times. As you know, the majority of 9-1-1 calls come from wireless phones, and we must adapt to ensure Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) have the ability to accurately identify the location of a caller regardless of whether the caller is indoors, outdoors, and/or in a multi-level, multi-unit building.

As Chairman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence and as Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, ensuring the highest level of public safety is of utmost importance – and that requires keeping pace with technological advances and adapting to the fact that 9-1-1 calls are increasingly being made from wireless phones. The lack of location data for indoor cellular callers is a gap in public safety that must be remedied. This proposed rule requiring wireless carriers to collect and share indoor cellular location data with law enforcement makes important progress in remedying this shortfall. If implemented, the FCC’s proposed rule would give first responders an important tool to assist them in locating 9-1-1 callers who, under the current system, oftentimes cannot be located or assisted in a timely manner (if at all) because they placed their 9-1-1 call on a cellular phone while indoors.

The Police Chiefs of four New York jurisdictions – Nassau County, Suffolk County, New York City and Buffalo – joined with Chiefs representing the 63 largest jurisdictions in the Nation in writing to your predecessor, Chairman Julius Genachowski, in May 2013 urging action in this

area and specifically asking the Commission “to consider regulations that require telecommunications providers to provide indoor cellular location data to law enforcement, just like caller data provided for wired phones.” New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly also weighed-in on this matter in a letter to Acting Chairwoman Clyburn, noting the importance of capturing location data for all call types “regardless of the user device location.”

The International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters and the National Volunteer Fire Council have passed a joint resolution emphasizing that “the deployment of effective indoor location technology is important for fire service, emergency medical services and public safety in general.”

Thank you for listening to the input of our first responders on this issue – they are on the front lines and need the best technology possible to ensure the security and safety of our citizens. I want to commend the FCC for its efforts to address problems with our antiquated 9-1-1 emergency response network. If you have any questions or have updates regarding this proposed rule, please contact Erin Ingraham of my staff at 202-225-7896.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter I. King", written over a horizontal line.

PETER I. KING

Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly