



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter conveying your support for changes to the Commission's rules governing E911 location accuracy. The Commission has a responsibility to preserve certain core values even as technology – and consumers' use of that technology – evolves. Nowhere is that more imperative than in the arena of public safety. Since I arrived at the Commission, one of our top public safety priorities has been improving the effectiveness of E911 and adapting Commission rules to keep pace with the ubiquitous use of wireless services as consumers' primary method of reaching emergency services, no matter where they are located.

Last February, we adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposed aggressive but achievable goals for improved location accuracy. Through the hard work of many people at the Commission, the public safety community, and industry, the Commission on January 29, 2015, adopted an Order that significantly improves our E911 location accuracy rules. The Order establishes transparent and measurable benchmarks to ensure that wireless providers are meeting their commitments and complying with our requirements.

Underpinning the Order is the clear evidence in the record that there have been significant advances in wireless network and location technologies that can provide more precise location accuracy information to locate indoor callers by providing a dispatchable location that includes street address, floor, and apartment or room number. The Order preserves the flexibility that carriers need to take advantage of these various technologies, while also establishing confidence-building measures, setting rational targets and deadlines for improving indoor location, and holding parties accountable for results. In particular, this Order establishes achievable benchmarks centered on commitments made by the major nationwide non-nationwide carriers in concert with efforts by public safety that will close the E911 readiness gap. Together we can and will deliver on the promise of new technology to make Americans safer.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tom Wheeler