



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 21, 2018

The Honorable Bruce Rauner  
Governor  
State of Illinois  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

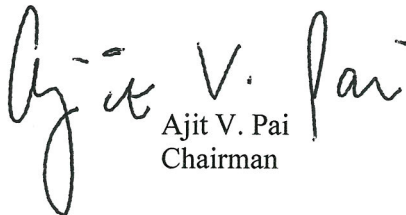
Dear Governor Rauner:

Thank you for your attention to the important issue of 9-1-1 fee diversion. As we are sure you know, underfunding Public Service Answering Points can lead to significant public safety problems, including longer wait times, fewer or overworked personnel, and outdated or inferior equipment to handle the call loads. It can also prevent 9-1-1 call centers from modernizing to Next Generation 9-1-1 technologies.

For several years following 2009, when the Federal Communications Commission began collecting data from states on 9-1-1 fee diversion practices, Illinois was found to have diverted such funds. However, with respect to 2016, after conversations with your Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator, Ms. Cindy Barbera-Brelle, we understand that the State made a typographical error in its reporting to the FCC and had not in fact diverted funding that year. Instead, that reported diversion took place in 2015. Moreover, Ms. Barbera-Brelle confirmed that the state did not divert funding in 2017 and would not divert going forward, as doing so would prevent the state's eligibility for an important Next Gen 9-1-1 grant program.

We are writing today to clarify that under no circumstances should 9-1-1 fees collected from consumers be diverted for other purposes. As we have heard from one Illinois county 9-1-1 director, upgrades have been put off and loans have been taken out to supplement the shortfall associated with past state diversion practices. Going forward, we urge you to continue the practice of 2016 and 2017 and devote these critical funds solely to the purpose for which they were intended: maintaining and improving public safety communications systems for the benefit of the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman

  
Mike O'Rielly  
Commissioner

cc: Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General  
Susan A. Mendoza, Illinois State Comptroller  
Cindy Barbera-Brelle, Illinois Statewide 9-1-1 Administrator