



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Brendan Carr
Chairman

September 29, 2025

The Honorable Jake Ellzey
U.S. House of Representatives
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: July 7 Letter to the FCC

Dear Representative Ellzey:

Thank you for your July 7 letter regarding an Emergency Alert System (EAS) event code specifically for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP). I welcome the opportunity to discuss the important work the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has done on this front and to provide an update more broadly on the FCC's work to ensure that timely and accurate emergency alerts are available to all Americans.

As you know, on August 7, 2024, the FCC adopted, on a bipartisan basis, a new EAS event code specifically for Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP). The MEP code was designed to target those who did not previously fall under the alert system framework, including tribal communities, where American Indians and Alaska Natives are at a disproportionate risk of violence, murder, or vanishing. The requirements set forth in that Order are set to go into effect on September 8, 2025.

As you are likely aware, the FCC did not adopt a separate MMIWP code because the scope of the MEP code is intended to cover MMIWP. As the FCC explained at the time of adoption, the decision supported efforts to raise critical public awareness of missing indigenous persons and close a gap that had existed in our public safety alert system. We expect that this new MEP code for missing and endangered persons who do not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert will enable a more rapid and coordinated response to these incidents by facilitating alerts on not just TV and radio, but also wireless phones. MEP alerts are sent through the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system through the use of existing alerting methodologies, which has ensured swift implementation. The FCC expects these wireless alerts will utilize the existing Imminent Threat and the Public Safety Message WEA alert classes.

Many tribes and tribe representing organizations specifically asked for an Event Code for Missing and Endangered Persons and were consulted as part of our process leading to the adoption of the MEP code. Tribes specifically petitioned the FCC to establish a National EAS event code designated for MEP, ensuring that missing and endangered indigenous and tribal

citizens are promptly identified and alerted, believing the new code would greatly assist tribes when individuals go missing and are in danger.

Public safety, and use of telecommunications networks to issue lifesaving alerts, are critically important to the FCC's work. At the FCC, we never stop trying to improve our alerting systems and to ensure that they are serving the public in the best way possible. Indeed, earlier this year, the FCC voted to approve a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that examines the nation's alert and warning systems from the ground up to make them more effective and efficient, and we welcome your thoughts as we continue to improve on these lifesaving tools.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope this information has been helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B Carr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brendan Carr,
Chairman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Brendan Carr
Chairman

September 29, 2025

The Honorable Val Hoyle
U.S. House of Representatives
1620 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: July 7 Letter to the FCC

Dear Representative Hoyle:

Thank you for your July 7 letter regarding an Emergency Alert System (EAS) event code specifically for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People (MMIWP). I welcome the opportunity to discuss the important work the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has done on this front and to provide an update more broadly on the FCC's work to ensure that timely and accurate emergency alerts are available to all Americans.

As you know, on August 7, 2024, the FCC adopted, on a bipartisan basis, a new EAS event code specifically for Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP). The MEP code was designed to target those who did not previously fall under the alert system framework, including tribal communities, where American Indians and Alaska Natives are at a disproportionate risk of violence, murder, or vanishing. The requirements set forth in that Order are set to go into effect on September 8, 2025.

As you are likely aware, the FCC did not adopt a separate MMIWP code because the scope of the MEP code is intended to cover MMIWP. As the FCC explained at the time of adoption, the decision supported efforts to raise critical public awareness of missing indigenous persons and close a gap that had existed in our public safety alert system. We expect that this new MEP code for missing and endangered persons who do not meet the criteria for an AMBER Alert will enable a more rapid and coordinated response to these incidents by facilitating alerts on not just TV and radio, but also wireless phones. MEP alerts are sent through the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system through the use of existing alerting methodologies, which has ensured swift implementation. The FCC expects these wireless alerts will utilize the existing Imminent Threat and the Public Safety Message WEA alert classes.

Many tribes and tribe representing organizations specifically asked for an Event Code for Missing and Endangered Persons and were consulted as part of our process leading to the adoption of the MEP code. Tribes specifically petitioned the FCC to establish a National EAS event code designated for MEP, ensuring that missing and endangered indigenous and tribal

citizens are promptly identified and alerted, believing the new code would greatly assist tribes when individuals go missing and are in danger.

Public safety, and use of telecommunications networks to issue lifesaving alerts, are critically important to the FCC's work. At the FCC, we never stop trying to improve our alerting systems and to ensure that they are serving the public in the best way possible. Indeed, earlier this year, the FCC voted to approve a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that examines the nation's alert and warning systems from the ground up to make them more effective and efficient, and we welcome your thoughts as we continue to improve on these lifesaving tools.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope this information has been helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B Carr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brendan Carr,
Chairman