



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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July 22, 2010

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV, Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Rockefeller:

I write on behalf of the nation's mayors to thank you first for your critical leadership on D block issue. We also thank you for listening to public safety and state and local government officials and your announcement yesterday that you soon will be introducing the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act. Based on your statement, your bill would do exactly what we have been calling for: reallocate the D Block spectrum to public safety and use proceeds from the auction of other portions of the spectrum to build out, maintain and operate the public safety broadband system.

Mayors strongly support allocating the D block to public safety because it would help to assure that our first responders are able to access a broadband network capable of providing reliable high speed data and voice applications so that they can meet current and future public safety needs.

We also support identification of alternative federal funding sources to ensure that all states and localities can afford the costs associated with transition to a nationwide network. Dedicating a portion of the proceeds of future spectrum auction can accomplish this without requiring significant appropriations.

All Americans deserve to be able to live in communities that are safe and secure, and effective communications among police, fire, and other first responders are essential to this. We look forward to working with you on your efforts to secure the D Block for America's first responders and support the development of a nationwide public safety broadband network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran".

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director