



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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September 23, 2010

To: The Mayor

From: Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director

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

Re: Urge your Senators to Support The Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovations Act (S. 3756)

Today Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Chair of our Criminal and Social Justice Committee, testified on behalf of the Conference before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. She indicated the Conference's strong support for The Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovations Act (S. 3756), which was introduced by Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller (WV). That bill would reallocate the D Block of the 700 MHz spectrum to public safety and designate the proceeds of auctions of other parts of the spectrum to assist in the development and support of a nationwide public safety broadband communications system – exactly what Conference policy adopted in Oklahoma City calls for.

This afternoon Mayor Parker discussed the D Block issue at our Leadership Meeting, which is now underway in Washington, D.C. The mayors assembled for the meeting expressed their concern, also reflected in Conference policy, with the proposal in the FCC's National Broadband Plan to auction the D Block spectrum to a commercial provider and asked that we alert all mayors to urge their Senators to support Senator Rockefeller's bill. We understand that Senator Rockefeller wants to move that bill out of Committee very quickly, possibly next week. **Please contact your senators right away and urge them to support and cosponsor S. 3756.**

The D Block is 10 MHz of spectrum adjacent to the 10 MHz allocated to public safety. The location of the D Block offers a one-time opportunity to improve first responder communications and emergency response capabilities and move to an interoperable public safety broadband network. Without the D Block, first responder communications will continue to lack access to the technologies commercial customers take for granted. The Conference's position on the D Block is shared by all of the major public safety organizations and all of the state and local government organizations in the Big 7.

Please contact the Conference's Public Safety Director, Laura DeKoven Waxman, at lwaxman@usmayors.org if you have any questions on this.