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August 26, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Republican Leader

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Leader

*Sent via email*

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

The 112th Congress is considering the passage of several bills on D-Block wireless communication that would allocate a specific broadband spectrum to public safety, designating this bandwidth for law enforcement use - and finally creating the truly interoperable communications network that law enforcement and emergency responders have needed for decades.

We understand that Congress may take action on this important legislation prior to the 10th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Nothing could be more appropriate than marking this solemn anniversary by making a genuine commitment to public safety communication, for this and future generations.

Rather than endorsing any one proposal now under consideration, in the spirit of bi-partisanship the nation's attorneys general urge you to protect citizens across all our states - by ensuring that the public safety professionals who have committed to serve and protect can effectively communicate with one another in the face of a dire emergency or attack.

Even without the constant threat of terrorist acts, repeated natural disasters in recent years have driven home the need in state after state. In Mississippi, Attorney General Jim Hood has seen his state endure Hurricanes Katrina and Ike, flooding of the Mississippi River Delta and a class 5 tornado that obliterated the town of Smithville. Immediately after Katrina, communications between Jackson, the capital city in the middle of the state, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast were minimal with no electricity and few cell phones. Gasoline was in high demand, and his office sent truck loads to the Coast along with satellite phones.

In more sparsely populated rural states like Montana, communication among law enforcement agencies is further complicated by the number of jurisdictions involved. Floods like those the Western states experienced this

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spring and the raging forest fires we face each summer have no regard for the patchwork of private, state, federal and tribal lands they devastate.

By providing the resources to develop a reliable, rapid and comprehensive law enforcement wireless communications system, the D-block designation would serve all our citizens well.

On April 12, 2011, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing to find uses for the spectrum that would advance public safety, promote broadband, create jobs and reduce the deficit. Speakers before the House Committee recommended that part of the spectrum freed when media companies changed to digital, 768-763 megahertz and 788-793 megahertz, be designated for first responders and public safety. Officials told Congress that, were the FCC to auction the remainder of the broadband to Internet providers, the monies realized could be allocated to infrastructure and made available for sorely needed law enforcement support.

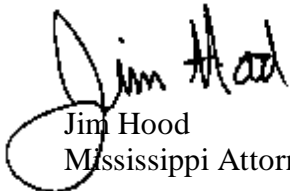
According to the FCC, the need to designate the spectrum for law enforcement purposes is made more urgent by an already burgeoning information flow. Communication devices like cell phones, netbooks and smart phones are increasing by an astonishing growth rate of over 250 percent each year. For example, over 13 billion new smart-phone applications have been downloaded. By freeing increased, unlicensed spectrum, D-Block legislation will create innovation and growth, encourage the development of new media, and increase wireless networks in rural areas by private industry.

Ultimately, reallocation of the spectrum use should benefit consumers by lowering transaction costs and increasing communication industries, all while supporting law enforcement and increasing public safety. The importance of designating the D-Block spectrum for law enforcement simply cannot be overstated.

The result for the greater good of national safety trumps any partisanship. For that reason, 42 of our nation's attorneys general urge your strong support of legislation that will give our law enforcement officers and emergency responders the reliable wireless communication our nation has long needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



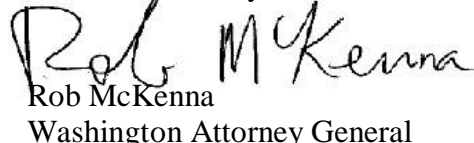
Jim Hood  
Mississippi Attorney General



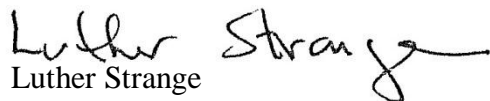
Steve Bullock  
Montana Attorney General




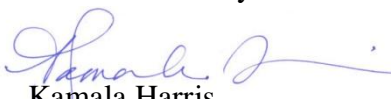
Marty J. Jackley  
South Dakota Attorney General




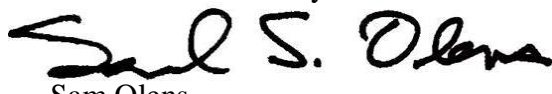
Rob McKenna  
Washington Attorney General

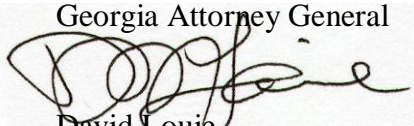
  
Luther Strange  
Alabama Attorney General


  
Tom Horne  
Arizona Attorney General

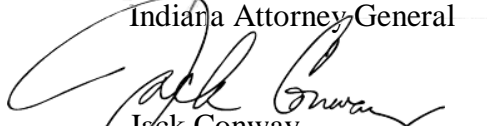
  
Kamala Harris  
California Attorney General


  
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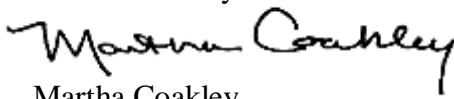
  
Sam Olens  
Georgia Attorney General

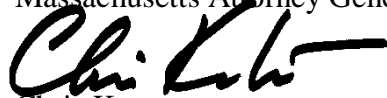
  
David Louie  
Hawaii Attorney General

  
Greg Zoeller  
Indiana Attorney General

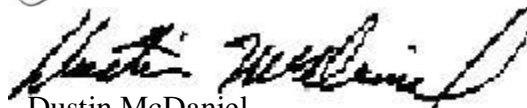
  
Jack Conway  
Kentucky Attorney General

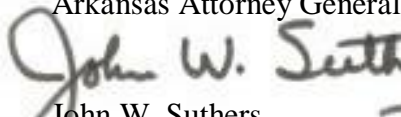
  
William J. Schneider  
Maine Attorney General


  
Martha Coakley  
Massachusetts Attorney General


  
Chris Koster  
Missouri Attorney General

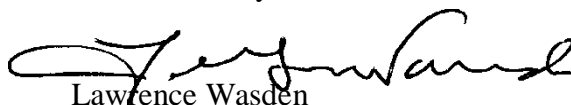
  
John J. Burns  
Alaska Attorney General


  
Dustin McDaniel  
Arkansas Attorney General

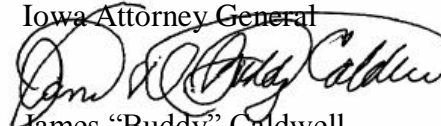
  
John W. Suthers  
Colorado Attorney General

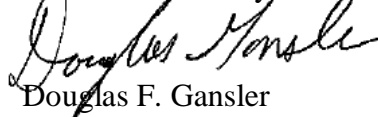
  
Pam Bondi  
Florida Attorney General


  
Lenny Rapadas  
Guam Attorney General


  
Lawrence Wasden  
Idaho Attorney General

  
Tom Miller  
Iowa Attorney General

  
James "Buddy" Caldwell  
Louisiana Attorney General

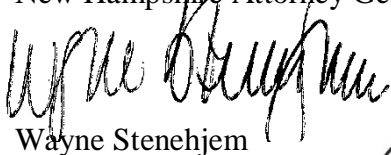
  
Douglas F. Gansler  
Maryland Attorney General

  
Bill Schuette  
Michigan Attorney General

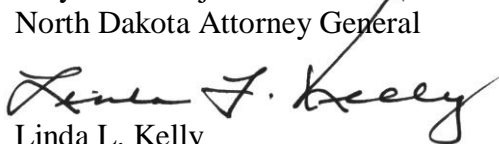
  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
Nevada Attorney General



Michael Delaney  
New Hampshire Attorney General



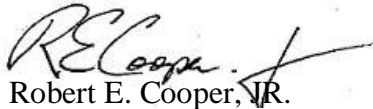
Wayne Stenehjem  
North Dakota Attorney General



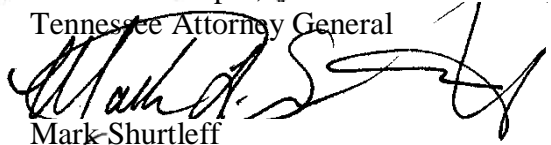
Linda L. Kelly  
Pennsylvania Attorney General



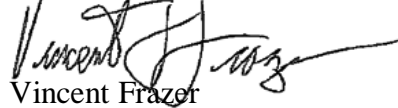
Peter Kilmartin  
Rhode Island Attorney General



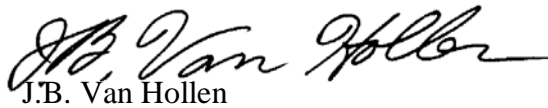
Robert E. Cooper, JR.  
Tennessee Attorney General



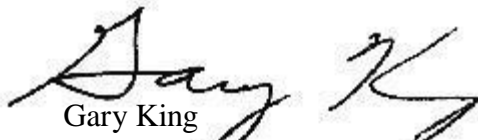
Mark Shurtleff  
Utah Attorney General



Vincent Frazer  
Virgin Islands Attorney General



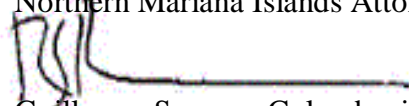
J.B. Van Hollen  
Wisconsin Attorney General



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New Mexico Attorney General



Edward T. Buckingham  
Northern Mariana Islands Attorney General



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Puerto Rico Attorney General



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