



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

APR 3 2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-96) ("Act") establishes the First Responder Network Authority or "FirstNet" as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and charges FirstNet with taking all actions necessary to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network.

Section 6201 of the Act requires the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) to grant FirstNet a single license, covering the existing public safety broadband spectrum and the 700 MHz D Block, and directs the Commission to "take all actions necessary to facilitate the transition of the existing public safety broadband spectrum" to FirstNet.

The Department of Commerce and NTIA are working to implement the Act's directives as expeditiously as possible. Likewise, we encourage the Commission to work with dispatch to reallocate the D Block spectrum and prepare the 700 MHz spectrum license for grant to FirstNet as soon as possible. NTIA will notify you when FirstNet is prepared to accept the Commission's grant of the 700 MHz license.

If you or your staff has any questions, or if NTIA may be of assistance in facilitating this process, please contact Deputy Assistant Secretary Anna M. Gomez or me at 202-482-1830.

Sincerely,

Lawrence E. Strickling

cc: The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
James Arden Barnett, Jr., Rear Admiral (Ret.), Chief, Public Safety and
Homeland Security Bureau
Jennifer A. Manner Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau