

National Emergency Number Association
The Voice of 9-1-1



To: Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCC)
Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCS)
Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA)
National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)
National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)

From: Craig Whittington, President
Brian Fontes, CEO

Re: 700 MHz D Block Reallocation Legislative Proposal

Date: November 18, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

NENA welcomed last week's dialogue with its partners in public safety on the value of broadband for emergency communications. NENA clearly understands the need for additional spectrum for public safety, in the near term and long term, for wireless broadband. The capabilities, efficiencies, and economies afforded public safety and other government users of broadband are substantial.

NENA has consistently advocated for access to all forms of broadband for all public safety entities on a nationwide basis - serving urban, suburban and rural communities. Additionally, NENA has strongly emphasized the need for dedicated funding for public safety broadband on an annual and recurring basis. Such a funding source would allow near and long-term planning and investment necessary to deploy and maintain broadband networks, and to provide funding for equipment and applications utilizing those networks.

NENA has always recognized, and continues to appreciate, the value of a 20 MHz contiguous spectrum block for wireless public safety broadband. Our colleagues in public safety have asked us to support a reallocation to public safety of the 700 MHz D Block. Many public safety organizations believe this to be the best option to achieve a public safety nationwide wireless broadband network. Legislation to this effect has been proposed. However, while the current draft legislation addresses public safety spectrum needs, it does not explicitly consider long-term, recurring funding needs.

To the extent that NENA's public safety colleagues can also endorse and support a legislative mechanism to ensure the associated funding on an annual ongoing basis necessary for nationwide public safety broadband networks, including wireless, NENA would join those

advocating for a reallocation of the D Block to public safety. Public safety's broadband needs, nationwide, can only be effectively addressed if spectrum and funding shortfalls are simultaneously considered. In short, NENA is prepared to join our colleagues in public safety on the proposed spectrum reallocation effort, if, in turn, that effort also includes an identifiable funding component.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Whittington". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Craig Whittington, ENP
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Fontes". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brian Fontes
CEO