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Protect FirstNet: Keep America's Lifeline in Public Safety's Hands

The Public Safety Broadband Technology Association Calls on Senators Cruz and Cantwell to Advance FirstNet Reauthorization and Protect the Essential Communications Network Our First Responders Depend On

Las Vegas, NV (November 15, 2026) – The Public Safety Broadband Technology Association (PSBTA) is committed to advocating that now more than ever, first responders need a communications network they can rely on. With the FirstNet Authority's authorization set to expire in February 2027, public safety leaders are calling on the Senate to take the final step to finalize the language in legislation with the public safety principles to reauthorize FirstNet. Timely action is essential to protecting the network that first responders depend on during critical operations and emergencies.

The U.S. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, led by Chairman Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA), has jurisdiction over communications policy and a central role in moving reauthorization forward. Public safety leaders are urging the committee to resolve outstanding language and help ensure FirstNet's future.

"We thank Congress for their role in creating the FirstNet Authority and urge Senators Cruz and Cantwell to build on that legacy by advancing its reauthorization," said Richard Carrizzo, President of the PSBTA. "With FirstNet's authorization set to expire in February 2027, further delay puts this essential public safety lifeline at risk. It is imperative that we support the communications advances that help first responders serve our communities more effectively."

FirstNet was born out of communications issues that were experienced by public safety during the 9/11 attack to ensure that our first responders are never behind technologically again. This service is leading the way in public safety technology through continuous network enhancements, constant technology evolution and innovation. The PSBTA provides resources to professionals on the fundamentals of the FirstNet wireless priority and preemption service with the goal of continuing to evolve communications that will lead to smarter and more effective public safety services.

Continued Carrizzo, "FirstNet is the only public safety dedicated network that offers features that commercial networks can not match. Those features include priority, preemption, higher power sites for enhanced coverage and security. With threats, this added security layer becomes imperative to protecting the network and first responders. This is not about politics; it is about protecting the people who protect us every day."

ABOUT PSBTA

The Public Safety Broadband Technology Association (PSBTA) is an organization focused exclusively on ensuring the success of the entire FirstNet ecosystem that includes the legal entity created by Congress, the network infrastructure, hardware and software, and the single most important component—the end users.