

The Honorable Gordon H. Smith
President and CEO



April 06, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Lou Barletta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Andre Carson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Barletta and
Ranking Member Carson:

On behalf of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), I write in support of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 (H.R. 1472). This bill, which will modernize the nation's public alert and warning system to ensure that the President can effectively alert and warn citizens during times of disaster, is strongly supported by America's broadcasters.

Local radio and television stations serve communities during emergencies by providing life-saving information, important news and weather reports. In addition to providing live, on-the-scene coverage of emergencies, the stations NAB represents have proudly worked with local and federal governments for more than six decades to broadcast alerts now disseminated through today's Emergency Alert System (EAS). Since 1996, working hand-in-hand with law enforcement, broadcasters have helped to successfully recover more than 734 abducted children through the use of AMBER Alerts.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 is an important step towards expanding the nation's public warning system by integrating multiple communications systems, such as EAS and wireless alerts, as well as

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future technologies. This legislation promotes local and regional public and private partnerships and provides redundant alert mechanisms to reach the largest number of people during an emergency.

Additionally, this legislation establishes a training program to instruct federal, state, tribal and local government officials in system use. Broadcasters are very supportive of such a training program and view this as a critical component to successful alerting. Strengthening coordination among the different levels of government, the legislation establishes an Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Advisory Committee composed of federal, state and local representatives, as well as members from various industry groups. The NAB and our members look forward to participating in this Advisory Committee and continuing our partnership with the federal government.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. America's broadcasters take their role as first informers in times of emergency very seriously. We look forward to working with you to strengthen our nation's warning system to help keep all Americans safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. H. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and "H".

Gordon H. Smith