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COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2013

Steve Largent
President and CEO
CTIA. The Wireless Association
1400 16th Street, NW – Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Largent:

Last spring, violent tornadoes tore through southern Indiana, decimating entire towns and forever changing the lives of many of my constituents. Among the most devastated areas were those located in my congressional district. In the end, 13 people were killed and numerous homes and businesses were destroyed.

What these storms teach us is that it is critically important to have ready access to emergency alerts and information before, during and after times of crisis. To that end, I encourage you to lead an industry effort to equip mobile devices with broadcast radio for emergency preparedness. An activated radio chip in mobile handsets would greatly enhance the effectiveness of a nationwide emergency alert system that could very well save lives.

As you know, there are millions of wireless devices in the United States. While nearly all of the handsets in the U.S. market have radio chips already in the phones, only a handful of these phones include enabled radio chips. In a society where cell phones and other mobile devices are increasingly ubiquitous, it makes perfect sense to have radio-enabled chips in mobile phones from an emergency preparedness perspective. More importantly, a radio-enabled mobile device would greatly expand the reach of critical disaster information to the nearly 343 million wireless subscribers in the U.S.

Mobile broadband and radio broadcasting can and should operate together in partnership to provide lifesaving information to Americans in times of crisis. Again, I ask that CTIA work with its wireless partners to include enabled radio receivers in mobile devices so that during times of natural disasters, such as the storms we faced in Indiana, every consumer can get the emergency alerts and information they need to stay safe.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,


Todd Young
Member of Congress