

The Honorable Gordon H. Smith
President and CEO



May 18, 2015

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martha McSally
Subcommittee Chairwoman
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Subcommittee Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul, Ranking Member Thompson, Chairwoman McSally and
Ranking Member Payne:

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. 1738). This bill, which will modernize the nation's public alert and warning system to ensure that the President, Federal agencies and State, tribal and local governments can warn every American in every area of the country if their lives are endangered by acts of terrorism, other man-made disasters or natural disasters, 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 not disseminated through today's Emergency Alert System (EAS). Since 1996, working hand-in-hand with law enforcement, broadcasters have helped successfully recover more than 758 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 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.

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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 our leadership on 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,



Gordon H. Smith