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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3202

November 14, 2013

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

CHAIRMAN, COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE

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1124

The Honorable Thomas E. Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

In light of next week's Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Workshop on E911 Phase II Location Accuracy, I am writing to convey my support for a FCC rule requiring wireless carriers to collect and share indoor cellular location data with law enforcement. It is vital that we give law enforcement and first responders the tools they need to keep our communities safe – and improving 9-1-1 location accuracy can help save lives, stop crimes, and improve response times.


As Chairman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence and as Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, ensuring the highest level of public safety is of utmost importance – and that requires keeping pace with technological advances and adapting to the fact that 9-1-1 calls are increasingly being made from wireless phones. The lack of location data for indoor cellular callers is a gap in public safety that must be remedied.

The Police Chiefs of four New York jurisdictions – Nassau County, Suffolk County, New York City and Buffalo – joined with Chiefs representing the 63 largest jurisdictions in the Nation in writing to your predecessor, Chairman Julius Genachowski, in May 2013 urging action in this area and specifically asking the Commission “to consider regulations that require telecommunications providers to provide indoor cellular location data to law enforcement, just like caller data provided for wired phones.” New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly also weighed-in on this matter in a letter to Acting Chairwoman Clyburn, noting the importance of capturing location data for all call types “regardless of the user device location.”

The International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters and the National Volunteer Fire Council have passed a joint resolution emphasizing that "the deployment of effective indoor location technology is important for fire service, emergency medical services and public safety in general."

Please take the views of these first responders into consideration. I would appreciate an update following the Workshop on whether the FCC plans to pursue a policy requiring wireless carriers to collect indoor cellular location data as discussed above. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Erin Ingraham of my staff at 202-225-7896.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter T. King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

PETER T. KING
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Bureau Chief David Turetsky