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111th Congress

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

July 29, 2009

The Hon. Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20554-0005

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

In response to concerns raised by public safety agencies that are finding that there is often no direct and reliable means of reaching citizens with emergency information, I am asking for a ruling on PS Docket No. 09-19.

PS Docket No. 09-19 arose out of concerns raised by the American Association of Information Radio Operators' (AAIRO) *Petition for Ruling on Travelers' Information Stations, Provisions of Localized Public Safety and Emergency Information, Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 90.242 and 90.407*. The Petition asks the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to clarify section 90.242(a) 7, to permit "any message concerning the safety of life or protection of property that may affect any traveler or any individual in transit or soon to be in transit, may be transmitted on Travelers Information Stations (TIS), at the sole discretion of officials authorized to operate such stations."

Travelers' Information Stations are essential to many communities for public access to information that can have a direct impact on their health and safety. It is my hope that PS Docket No. 09-19 will be reviewed promptly and a ruling will be forthcoming given the importance of TIS in so many communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Pete Hoekstra
Member of Congress



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