



NYSAC

NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

540 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, New York 12207 | Phone: (518) 465-1473 | Fax: (518) 465-0506 | www.nysac.org

President: Hon. William J. Ryan, Westchester County | Executive Director: Stephen J. Acquario, Esq.

November 12, 2010

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
313 Hart Building
Washington D.C., 20510-0001

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the New York State Association of Counties and the numerous county public safety professionals we represent, I urge you to become a cosponsor of S. 3756, the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act of 2010, introduced by Senator John (Jay) Rockefeller, IV (D – WV), Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

The Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act would:

- Establish a framework for the deployment of a nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety;
- Allocate 10 MHz of spectrum, known as the D Block, to public safety;
- Direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to develop technical and operational standards to ensure nationwide interoperability and build-out (including in rural areas);
- Direct the FCC to establish standards that allow public safety officials, when not using the network, to lease capacity on a secondary, but preemptive basis to non-public safety entities, including other governmental users and commercial users; and
- Provide the FCC with incentive auction authority, which allows existing spectrum licensees to voluntarily relinquish their airwaves in exchange for a portion of the proceeds of the commercial auction of their spectrum. The funds from these incentive auctions, in conjunction with funds from the auction of other specified spectrum bands, and funds earned from leasing the public safety network on a secondary basis, will be used to fund the construction and maintenance of the nationwide interoperable wireless broadband public safety network.

This legislation provides the much needed funding to ensure that counties in New York, and across the entire nation, have a public safety communication system capable of handling emergency communications needs both today and into the future. Public safety officials, including sheriffs, police chiefs, fire chiefs, police officers, state troopers, volunteer fire fighters, and emergency medical service officials are united in their strong support for the allocation of the D Block to public safety and the establishment of a funding program to construct and maintain a nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network that will improve our nation's homeland security and provide first responders with advanced voice, video and data communications technologies that are urgently needed. Thank you for your support of our nation's first responders who put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve our communities, and I look forward to receiving a response in support of S. 3756 from your office.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Acquario
Executive Director

Committed to counties since 1925

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