

The Honorable Gordon H. Smith
President and CEO



October 28, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lou Barletta
Subcommittee Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andre Carson
Subcommittee Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member Rahall, Chairman Barletta and Ranking Member Carson:

I write in support of H.R. 3300, the FEMA Reauthorization Act of 2013. This bill, which will modernize the nation's public alert and warning system to ensure that the President can effectively alert and warn citizens during times of disaster, 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 now disseminated through today's Emergency Alert System (EAS). Since 1996, working hand-in-hand with law enforcement, broadcasters have helped to successfully recover more than 656 abducted children through the use of AMBER Alerts.

1771 N Street NW
Washington DC 20036 2800
Phone 202 429 5449
Fax 202 429 5410
www.nab.org

The FEMA Reauthorization Act of 2013 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.

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 National Association of Broadcasters and our members look forward to participating in this Advisory Committee and continuing our partnership with the federal government.

Thank you for your consideration of 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. H. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and "H".

Gordon H. Smith