



October 25, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The undersigned, who are the chief executive officers of the fifty State Broadcasters Associations in the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, are pleased to offer our support and endorsement for the FEMA Reauthorization Act of 2013, which would also, for the first time, authorize the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).

If passed, this bill will ensure that more people receive life-saving information in more parts of America, more of the time, through current and future alert and warning technologies, while strengthening broadcasters' role as the backbone of America's public alerting system.

Many of us serve as chairs or members of our respective State Emergency Communications Committees, which are charged with managing the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in our states. We have all worked tirelessly to ensure that a robust, reliable alerting system is available when it is needed.













We have observed over the years that the system needs a higher level of coordination among the various federal, state and local public safety and emergency management agencies as "message originators" on the one hand, and the broadcast, cable and satellite "message relayers" on the other hand; and that the absence of any formal, ongoing training of state and local public safety and emergency management personnel on the use of EAS has hampered state and local officials' willingness and ability to use it efficiently in times of emergency, thus putting lives and property at risk.

This bill will address these problems and will make giant strides toward improvement of alert and warning capability in our states and across our nation. We look forward to the successful passage of this important measure.

Very truly yours,
The Undersigned CEOs of the Fifty State Broadcast Trade Associations

<p><i>Sharon M. Tinsley</i></p>  <p>Alabama Broadcasters Association Sharon Tinsley</p>	<p><i>Darlene Simone</i></p>  <p>Alaska Broadcasters Association Darlene Simone</p>	<p><i>Art Brooks</i></p>  <p>Arizona Broadcasters Association Art Brooks</p>
<p><i>Doug Krile</i></p>  <p>Arkansas Broadcasters Association Doug Krile</p>	<p><i>Stan Statham</i></p>  <p>California Broadcasters Association Stan Statham</p>	<p><i>Justin Sasso</i></p>  <p>Colorado Broadcasters Association Justin Sasso</p>
<p><i>Michael C. Rice</i></p>  <p>Connecticut Broadcasters Association Michael C. Rice</p>	<p><i>C. Patrick Roberts</i></p>  <p>Florida Association of Broadcasters C. Patrick Roberts</p>	<p><i>Bob Houghton</i></p>  <p>Georgia Association of Broadcasters Bob Houghton</p>
<p><i>Jamie Hartnett</i></p>  <p>Hawaii Association of Broadcasters Jamie Hartnett</p>	<p><i>Connie M. Searles</i></p>  <p>Idaho State Broadcasters Association Connie Searles</p>	<p><i>Dennis Lyle</i></p>  <p>Illinois Broadcasters Association Dennis Lyle</p>
<p><i>Joe Misiewicz</i></p>  <p>Indiana Broadcasters Association Joe Misiewicz</p>	<p><i>Sue Toma</i></p>  <p>Iowa Broadcasters Association Sue Toma</p>	<p><i>Kent M. Cornish</i></p>  <p>Kansas Association of Broadcasters Kent Cornish</p>

<p><i>Gary R. White</i></p>  <p>Kentucky Broadcasters Association Gary White</p>	<p><i>Polly Prince Johnson</i></p>  <p>Louisiana Association of Broadcasters Polly Prince Johnson</p>	<p><i>Suzanne Goucher</i></p>  <p>Maine Association of Broadcasters Suzanne Goucher</p>
<p><i>Lisa Reynolds</i></p>  <p>Maryland/D.C./Delaware (MDCD) Broadcasters Association Lisa Reynolds</p>	<p><i>Jordan Walton</i></p>  <p>Massachusetts Broadcasters Association Jordan Walton</p>	<p><i>Karole L. White</i></p>  <p>Michigan Association of Broadcasters Karole L. White</p>
<p><i>Jim du Bois</i></p>  <p>Minnesota Broadcasters Association Jim duBois</p>	<p><i>Jackie Lett</i></p>  <p>Mississippi Association of Broadcasters Jackie Lett</p>	<p><i>Mark Gordon</i></p>  <p>Missouri Broadcasters Association Mark Gordon</p>
<p><i>Greg MacDonal</i></p>  <p>Montana Broadcasters Association Greg MacDonald</p>	<p><i>Marty Riemenschneider</i></p>  <p>Nebraska Broadcasters Association Marty Riemenschneider</p>	<p><i>Robert Fisher</i></p>  <p>Nevada Broadcasters Association Robert Fisher</p>

<p><i>Jordan Walton</i></p>  <p>New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters Jordan Walton</p>	<p><i>Paul Rotella</i></p>  <p>New Jersey Broadcasters Association Paul Rotella</p>	<p><i>Paula Maes</i></p>  <p>New Mexico Broadcasters Association Paula Maes</p>
<p><i>David Donovan</i></p>  <p>New York State Broadcasters Association David Donovan</p>	<p><i>Wade Hargrove, Esq.</i></p>  <p>North Carolina Association of Broadcasters Wade Hargrove, Esq.</p>	<p><i>Beth A. Helfrich</i></p>  <p>North Dakota Broadcasters Association Beth Helfrich</p>
<p><i>Chris Merritt</i></p>  <p>Ohio Association of Broadcasters Chris Merritt</p>	<p><i>Vance Harrison</i></p>  <p>Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Vance Harrison</p>	<p><i>Bill Johnstone</i></p>  <p>Oregon Association of Broadcasters Bill Johnstone</p>
<p><i>Rich Wyckoff</i></p>  <p>Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Rich Wyckoff</p>	<p><i>Jose A. Ribas Dominicci</i></p>  <p>Radio Broadcasters Association of Puerto Rico Jose A. Ribas Dominicci</p>	<p><i>Lori Needham</i></p>  <p>Rhode Island Broadcasters Association Lori Needham</p>

  <p>South Carolina Broadcasters Association Shani White</p>	  <p>South Dakota Broadcasters Association Steve Willard</p>	  <p>Tennessee Association of Broadcasters Whit Adamson</p>
  <p>Texas Association of Broadcasters Oscar Rodriguez</p>	  <p>Utah Broadcasters Association Michele Zabriskie</p>	  <p>Vermont Association of Broadcasters Jim Condon</p>
  <p>Virginia Association of Broadcasters Doug Easter</p>	  <p>Washington State Association of Broadcasters Mark Allen</p>	  <p>West Virginia Broadcasters Association Michele Crist</p>
  <p>Wisconsin Broadcasters Association Michelle Vetterkind</p>	  <p>Wyoming Association of Broadcasters Laura Grott</p>	

