

# **CALAMP Wireless Networks**

## **Statement of Support 700MHz D Block allocation**

**CALAMP Wireless Networks, providing data communications network solutions for over 30 years to First responders. Calamp involvement in the process of 700MHz planning and D Block allocation spans several years now and we support the allocation of the D Block to public safety and the establishment of a regulatory process and structure to construct a nationwide, interoperable mobile wireless broadband network.** The move will improve our nation's homeland security and provide first responders with new voice, video and data communications technologies that are urgently needed. Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John "Jay" Rockefeller, IV of West Virginia recently introduced legislation, **S. 3756: The Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act of 2010**, which provides the basis for implementing this unmet 9/11 Commission recommendation.

Our country's local, State, Tribal and Federal first responders, including law enforcement, fire, medical and emergency professionals, must have access to the most modern and reliable wireless broadband technologies to communicate with each other and with federal officials across various agencies and jurisdictions during emergencies. The ability for public safety to have seamless nationwide roaming capability on a wireless broadband network that is hardened to public safety requirements is both achievable and essential for public safety to meet its ever increasing responsibilities.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is planning to address this issue again by the disposition of the D Block via auction. The first attempt by the FCC to auction the spectrum failed miserably. Public safety officials, service providers and infrastructure vendors agree that a more effective method would be to allocate the D Block directly to public safety organizations in order to create a national broadband network that would meet the mission critical needs of first responders.

If allocated, this 10 MHz sliver of spectrum known as the D Block will be combined with the current 10 MHz of spectrum already allocated to public safety to create a 20 MHz block necessary to build out a nationwide public safety broadband network. When built, the new network will be able to support a wide range of public safety, government, critical infrastructure and consumer applications, including voice, video and data services. The wireless broadband network will also enable State, local and Tribal governments to provide more cost effective services to their communities, while saving local and State governments millions of dollars in administering programs such as reading water meters and deploying smart grid technologies. The envisioned public/private partnership will also provide much needed public safety service, as well as commercial broadband service, to rural America.

One of the top recommendations of the "9/11 Commission Report" was for Congress to "support pending legislation which provides for the expedited and increased assignment of radio spectrum for public safety purposes." We believe Congress must quickly pass legislation to allocate the D Block spectrum to public safety, first proposed in bipartisan legislation introduced by Congressman Peter King (R-NY) and Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY) as **H.R. 5081: Broadband for First Responders Act of 2010**. The legislation must also provide an annually recurring and dedicated funding source to build and maintain the nationwide public safety wireless broadband network. Senator Rockefeller's bill, S. 3756, which builds upon H.R. 5081, as well as **S. 3625: The First Responders Protection Act of 2010**, as introduced by Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Senator Joe Lieberman and former Senate Commerce Chairman John McCain, provides the framework to create a world-class nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network by aligning three crucial components for the welfare of emergency first responders: spectrum, infrastructure and funding.

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Our nation cannot afford to miss this one-time-only opportunity to help public safety. CALAMP calls on Congress pass legislation which will support our first responders who put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve their communities.