



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

June 7, 2011

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Technology
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Technology
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchison:

I am writing in strong support of S. 911, the Strengthening Public-Safety and Enhancing Communications Through Reform, Utilization, and Modernization (SPECTRUM) Act, a bipartisan initiative crucial to the future of public safety in the United States.

In the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, 2001, Americans came to understand that a commitment to comprehensive improvement in our system of emergency communications is an essential element of our national security. New York City has worked tirelessly to make interoperability of emergency communications a reality, and we have made significant progress on that goal, but our efforts are necessarily limited to a local level. As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11, we can no longer afford to leave this issue—one of the key areas of focus of the 9/11 Commission—unaddressed. Legislation setting aside a dedicated portion of the 700 MHz spectrum for public safety officials for a nationwide interoperable network—known as the D Block—must be passed immediately to aid first responders across the country and at every level in saving countless lives and ensuring homeland security.

Building a nationwide broadband public safety network would allow cities across the country to transmit critical, real-time information during emergencies. In New York City, we have achieved interoperability for emergency voice communications, ensuring that all of our emergency responders can communicate in real time over our local radio systems. But that same interoperability needs to be able to function beyond individual localities, to provide seamless communication nationwide, which can only be accomplished with adequate public safety spectrum.

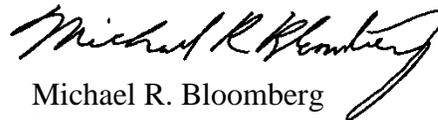
The SPECTRUM Act would not only provide interoperable voice communication, but also bring the technology used by public safety agencies into the twenty-first century, allowing

for critical data of all types to be shared among those who need it while responding to emergencies. The additional spectrum would allow our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical teams to instantly access relevant floor plans, maps, and photos to aid in search efforts for survivors, and our EMS workers would be able to wirelessly relay patient information to hospitals while en route. Rather than relying on bits and pieces of scattered spectrum that would prevent large data transmissions, every local, state, and federal first responder would be linked seamlessly on the D Block. Establishing this coast-to-coast communications network is a crucial tool in continuing efforts to combat all of the challenges that our public safety professionals face, from international terrorism to local weather emergencies.

Allocating the D Block spectrum for the exclusive use of the nation's emergency responders benefits not only the public safety officers who risk their lives while performing their duties, but helps every American who they serve in time of need. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure passage of legislation establishing a public safety broadband network this year.

Thank you for your consideration of this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael R. Bloomberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor