



Public Safety Alliance

Dedicated to First Responders...First

D Block Spectrum: Setting the Record Straight

The Public Safety Alliance (PSA) is setting the record straight on the top five D Block Spectrum Myths. We are working together with more than 27 of the nation's leading public safety and state and local government associations to support legislation that would allocate this spectrum to America's first responders to build a nationwide interoperable broadband network.

"We support the immediate allocation of the D-block spectrum to public safety. We must not approach these urgent matters at a leisurely pace. We don't know when the next attack or disaster will strike. Further delay is intolerable. We urge the Congress to act."

–Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, Chairmen of the 9/11 Commission

Congressional Supporters of Public Safety include:

Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Senator Al Franken (D-MN), Senator Thomas Harkin (D-IA), Senator John Kerry (D-MA), Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), Representative Peter King (R-NY3), Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS2), Representative John Barrow (D-GA12), Representative Shelley Berkley (D-NV1), Representative Leonard Boswell (D-IA3), Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL13), Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY11), Representative Chip Cravaack (R-MN8), Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN5), Representative Jim Gerlach (R-PA6), Representative Michael Grimm (R-NY13), Representative Jesse Jackson (D-IL2), Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX18), Representative Eddie Johnson (D-TX30), Representative James Langevin (D-RI2), Representative Thomas Latham (R-IA4), Representative David Loebsack (D-IA2), Representative Billy Long (R-MO7), Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY18), Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY4), Representative John Mica (R-FL7), Representative Michael Michaud (D-ME2), Representative Candice Miller (R-MI10), Representative Erik Paulsen (R-MN3), Representative Dave Reichert (R-WA8), Representative Laura Richardson (D-CA37), Representative Michael Rogers (R-AL3), Representative Heath Shuler (D-NC11), Representative Edolphus Towns (D-NY10), Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA1), and Representative Donald Young (R-AK).

The main goals reflected in H.R. 607, S.28, S.1040 and S.911 – allocating D Block to public safety and providing funding for network build out derived from revenue generated by auction of other spectrum as the top priority -- have earned bipartisan backing including President Obama, Sens. McCain and Lieberman, Chairmen of the 9/11 Commission Gov. Tom Kean and Rep. Lee Hamilton, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman John Rockefeller, Ranking member Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, House Homeland Security Chairman Rep. Peter King and Ranking member Rep. Bennie Thompson, as well as approximately another 30 Members of Congress as co-sponsors, and from both sides of the aisle.

D Block Spectrum: Facts vs. Myths

1. **MYTH:** Building out a nationwide public safety network will cost \$30 to \$45 billion.
FACT: In its Broadband Network Cost Model, the FCC provided a range of cost estimates from \$7.8B to \$47.5B to build and operate a public safety network for over a ten-year period. This myth stems from taking the *worst case scenario* from the FCC's model, which assumed building brand new cell sites requiring zoning, permits and construction of towers and facilities. The fact is that public safety fully intends to leverage its existing facilities wherever possible and will augment with existing commercial facilities when needed. The fact is that building a 20 MHz network would cost approximately the same amount as building a 10 MHz network. We agree with

Congressional leaders that the \$10 to \$12 billion in federal funding for network construction and sustainment reflected in S.1040, S.28 and H.R. 607 is adequate.

2. **MYTH:** Managing a public safety network may require a new federal bureaucracy.
FACT: There are no proposals to create a federal agency for the public safety broadband network. The PSA has consistently advocated that the network should be managed by public safety with the private sector in a public-private partnership. Proposed legislation addresses this through a non-profit corporation that would transition over the current public safety broadband license (PSBL) and combine it with the D Block within the non-profit's authority.
3. **MYTH:** America's public safety community lacks a rollout plan for deploying a nationwide interoperable network.
FACT: Once the spectrum has been allocated and a specific funding model established, the PSA has a plan to establish a nationwide outreach and coordination effort that will document every eligible public safety entity contact and their readiness for broadband. The public safety community is eager and ready to deploy this 21st Century network in order to protect our citizens and save lives.
4. **MYTH:** A commercial D-Block auction process will help ease the federal deficit.
FACT: A commercial D-Block auction process will actually cost taxpayers significantly more than allocating the D Block to public safety. An analysis by The Phoenix Center¹ suggests that the loss of auction revenues today is more than offset by higher auction revenues and lower public safety network deployment costs tomorrow. Thus, the auction adds, rather than relieves stress to the public budget. The study, conducted by a noted economist and former high-level FCC official, also found that assigning the D Block to public safety provides at least \$3.4B more in social benefits as opposed to an auction. Additionally, the FCC has stated that public safety will need more than 10 MHz for broadband in the future, and we know that it cost no more to build out 20 MHz than 10 MHz for LTE when the spectrum is contiguous and is built out together. Yet, if the D Block is not allocated to public safety and not joined with the current and contiguous 10 MHz that public safety has repurposed for broadband already within the 700 band, then it will cost more than twice as much to identify and build out an additional 10 MHz of noncontiguous spectrum in the future.
5. **MYTH:** Connect Public Safety Now is a credible and legitimate voice for the public safety community.
FACT: Connect Public Safety Now has *no* connection to public safety. CPSN is a front group for cellular industry heavy-hitters including Sprint Nextel and is still operating on funding provided by T-Mobile before they withdrew from the coalition. Its goal is to have the D Block auctioned for commercial use, to bid on the spectrum and ultimately use it to increase its own corporate profits and shareholder value through unrestricted commercial use. The coalition does not care to provide public-safety grade, mission-critical network capabilities that public safety requires such as higher security, redundancy, "ruthless preemption" level priority access, roaming, build out to geography vs. population (meaning equal priority for rural areas) and back-up requirements.

Public safety's approach, the public-private partnership which the National Broadband Plan proposed to abandon, creates competition and jobs, enhances public safety and reduces the deficit. CPSN's plan jeopardizes all else just to try to create competition, and at its best, may only get them part of the way there with only 10 MHz.

To learn more please visit: <http://www.psafirst.org/>

¹To view the Phoenix Center study visit: <http://www.phoenix-center.org/PolicyBulletin/PCPB26Final.pdf>.

