



April 27, 2017

John Nygren  
Wisconsin State Representative  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Nygren:

We represent Wisconsin's law enforcement, first responder and public safety community. Collectively, our public safety personnel provide critical services in all 72 counties.

We are writing regarding the critical need for Wisconsin to modernize its 911 infrastructure. **We firmly believe the top public safety priority in the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget must be 911 modernization.**

We strongly support the proposal developed by Representative Felzkowski and Senator Harsdorf to establish a statewide Emergency Services IP Network (ESInet) funded with revenue from the Police and Fire Protection Fund surcharge. Their proposal focuses on the transition from the dangerously obsolete analog 911 network to a statewide digital ESInet.

We are aware of other, potentially competing, public safety related initiatives under consideration for the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget. Specifically, there are efforts underway regarding WISCOM. We are also aware of the very recent report on WISCOM, which raises numerous legitimate questions regarding the system's shortcomings. Those issues should be addressed in a thoughtful and deliberate manner.

**However, as law enforcement officials and first responders with the option to use WISCOM, the efforts regarding WISCOM are not our first priority for improving public safety in Wisconsin.** The current utilization of WISCOM helps us illustrate that point: only 4 counties and 2 municipalities rely on WISCOM as their daily communication system at this time. WISCOM does offer an important mechanism for interoperable communications when needed. We support optimization of this system and development when funding does not compete against our primary concern.

911 Modernization

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**To reiterate, the modernization of 911 in Wisconsin is our top priority and absolutely critical for the future of public safety in Wisconsin. Every day, every community and every citizen of Wisconsin depends on a reliable 911 system.**

Please support the proposal offered by Representative Felzkowski and Senator Harsdorf to begin the modernization of 911 in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Wisconsin APCO

WI Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association

Wisconsin NENA

League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Badger State Sheriffs' Association

Wisconsin Counties Association

Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association