

August 3, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist, MD
Office of the Majority Leader
S-230 Capitol Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Office of the Minority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Frist & Minority Leader Reid:

Ensuring that 9-1-1 service is available and effective for our nation's citizens today and in the future as technology advances must be a top priority. Our organizations are aligned in the urgent need for the rapid deployment of Enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1) services for Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) providers. Thus, we ask for your help to move S. 1063 – the IP-Enabled Voice Communications and Public Safety Act - expeditiously through the Senate.

There is currently no more important issue among our respective organizations than deploying E9-1-1 as quickly as possible for every consumer using VoIP services. S. 1063 provides the necessary tools to address this topic and other critically important issues for both the public safety community and VoIP service providers and their third party vendors. Specifically, the legislation:

- Codifies existing regulations requiring VoIP companies to provide E9-1-1 services;
- Provides states with the authority to enforce FCC rules in this area and collect much needed fees from VoIP providers to maintain and upgrade the 9-1-1 system;
- Provides liability parity for public safety officials receiving VoIP 9-1-1 calls and VoIP providers and their third party vendors delivering those calls into the 9-1-1 system equivalent with liability protection for wireline and wireless 9-1-1 calls;
- Ensures that VoIP providers have access to the 9-1-1 infrastructure necessary to complete 9-1-1 calls; and
- Requires National 9-1-1 Implementation and Coordination Office established in ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004 to submit a plan to Congress on the migration towards a modern IP-Enabled 9-1-1 system.

This bi-partisan legislation sponsored by Senators Burns and Bill Nelson offers an opportunity to pass significant VoIP 9-1-1 legislation in the 109th Congress. We support an amended version of the bill that we understand will be offered in the near future that

advances the issues raised above and removes a provision on waivers. With the limited time you have left in the legislative session we respectfully request that you move this legislation before the Senate adjourns.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bill Munn, ENP
President
National Emergency Number Association



Steve Marzolf
President
National Association of State 9-1-1
Administrators