

National Emergency Number Association

The Voice of 9-1-1



February 2, 2009

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Digital Television Transition

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Barton,

I am writing on behalf of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), the leading professional non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of 9-1-1 emergency communications issues, as a follow up to our earlier letter regarding the digital television (DTV) transition. On behalf of NENA's 7,000 members, we again wish to thank you for your efforts to ensure that a significant element of the debate to extend the DTV transition date addresses the needs of public safety. NENA supports the Senate approach recently adopted in S352 that addresses public safety spectrum needs and we encourage the House to quickly adopt the measure.

While NENA again wishes to underscore the substantial importance of public safety access to this valuable spectrum and your willingness to work with public safety, we also are mindful of the greater societal debate and the impact on millions of consumers if the DTV transition is not properly handled. If there is a delay in the transition, then it is very important that public safety agencies have the option to gain expedited access to channels that have been vacated by broadcasters before the new DTV transition deadline, an important aspect of the legislation adopted by the Senate that are you now preparing to consider.

Thank you again for your commitment to consider the potential impact on public safety of an extension of the DTV transition.

Sincerely,

Brian Fontes
CEO

cc: The Honorable Rick Boucher
The Honorable Cliff Stearns