

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International
International Association of Chiefs of Police
International Association of Fire Chiefs

January 30, 2009

Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

We understand that the House of Representatives may soon consider S. 352, the DTV transition extension bill that passed in the Senate yesterday.

The bill the Senate passed yesterday included language to address the impact on public safety of a DTV transition delay. We expressed support for this language in a letter we sent on January 27, 2009, to Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchison.

Specifically, the bill makes it clear that a public safety agency can use its existing license in the 700 MHz band to commence operations after a broadcaster has voluntarily ceased operations on a channel before June 12. All 50 states and some local governments have FCC licenses for 700 MHz spectrum, and are waiting for the DTV transition date to modernize their communications systems and ensure public safety.

Although we have concerns about the impact of delaying the transition date on public safety, since this language is now included in the final version of the bill we support passage of this legislation.

We thank you and your colleagues for taking into account the concerns of public safety while considering this matter.

Respectfully,

Chris Fischer, President, APCO

1426 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Chief Russell B. Laine, President, IACP

515 N. Washington, Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2357

Chief Larry J. Grorud, President, IAFC

4025 Fair Ridge Drive, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22033-2868