



April 18, 2023

Chair Liz Olson
Minnesota House of Representatives
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF2890 (Public Safety Bill)

Dear Chair Olson:

We are writing to you today regarding Article 15 of HF2890 which is language that comprehensively rewrites Minnesota Chapter 403 governing the 911 Emergency Communications System.

Our industries agree that Chapter 403 is in need of a legislative update. However, Chapter 403 contains highly technical language, and it should go without saying that the language governing the operation of the 911 emergency communications network used by all Minnesotans to contact police, fire, and emergency medical assistance should not be revised in haste and must be done carefully and in cooperation with all stakeholders. We must get this right.

We have been working on the policy language in this bill with the Department of Public Safety (DPS). On March 16, 2023, the day after the House File and companion (2890) was introduced, our two associations along with several of our members — the companies that will be responsible for implementing these changes and delivering 911 calls from our customers to emergency first responders — met for several hours with DPS and provided a long list of technological concerns and questions we have about the proposed 911 policy language. Since then, we, along with DPS, have continued to work on the language with our technical experts but there is much more work to be done.

Please be assured that the members of our associations are fully committed to continuing to work with DPS to get the language right. However, at this point in the legislative session, we would strongly suggest that 911 policy changes in the DPS budget bill be resolved by all of the stakeholders in the interim to ensure that changes made to Chapter 403 are technically feasible and sound. This additional time will also permit the appropriate policy committees to give full consideration to the proposed changes during the 2024 legislative session.

Sincerely,

MINNESOTA CABLE COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

Anna Boroff, Executive Director

MINNESOTA TELECOM ALLIANCE

Brent Christensen, President and CEO