

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 9, 2007

Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Ave. NW, Room 5516
Washington, DC 20230

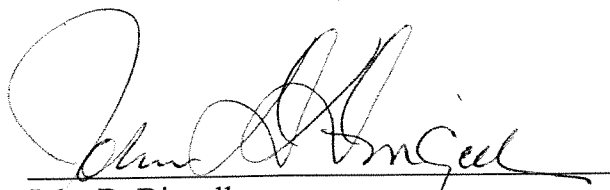
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Section 3006 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L.109-171) directs the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to create and administer a \$1 billion interoperable communications grant program. This program will help ensure our Nation's first responders have state-of-the-art equipment to effectively communicate with each other in times of disaster. The Call Home Act (P.L. 109-459), signed into law on December 22, 2006, accelerates the deadline for distribution of those funds to September 30, 2007.

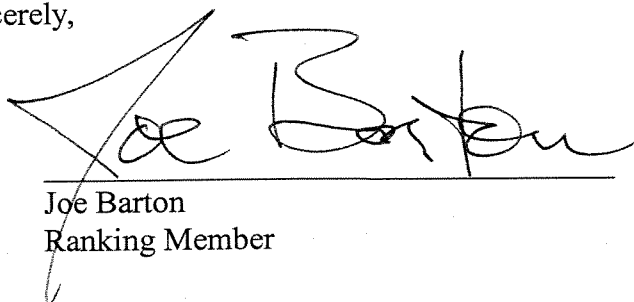
Given this Committee's commitment to ensuring the best possible interoperable communications system for first responders, please report to us on how the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information is capitalizing on the spectrum and communications expertise of NTIA in implementing this program. Please indicate what steps you have taken, and what future steps you will take, to administer this important program. In addition, please detail how the NTIA will use its expertise to ensure that this program will have the greatest effects in assisting first responders to achieve communications interoperability in a timely manner.

We request a response to this request by the close of business on Monday, January 22, 2007. Thank you for your time and attention in responding to this request.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Joe Barton
Ranking Member