



April 10, 2023

Chair John Marty  
Minnesota Senate  
3235 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF2909 (Public Safety Omnibus Policy and Finance Bill)

Dear Chair Marty:

We are writing you today regarding Article 6 of SF2909 as amended which is new policy language that comprehensively rewrites Minnesota Chapter 403 governing the 911 Emergency Communications System. The bill's author, Senator Latz, is aware of our concerns we raise below.

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.

The policy language in this bill was introduced last month and it was never heard or reviewed in committee. 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 the Department of Public Safety (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 but there is 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