

March 28, 2023

Chair Ron Latz
Minnesota Senate
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

Dear Chair Latz:

We are writing you today regarding Article 8 of SF2909 as introduced (Article 6 of the March 27, 2023 DE A2 amendment) which is new policy language that comprehensively rewrites Minnesota Chapter 403 governing the 911 Emergency Communications System.

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

This new policy language was introduced 12 days ago and was never heard in committee. On March 16, 2023, the day after HF2890 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. DPS promised to provide revised language prior to a hearing on the Bill. We received informal revised language and comments shortly after 3:00pm today. There is not sufficient time before today's 5:00pm committee deadline for submission of comments to review DPS's informal language with our members and provide our comments.

As a sign of our good faith and commitment to continuing to work with DPS on the 911 policy language in the Bill, we will not be testifying for or against the Bill tomorrow. Please be assured that we 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 language changes in the Bill be worked on by all of the stakeholders in the interim to ensure that changes made to Chapter 403 are technically feasible and sound.

Sincerely,

MINNESOTA CABLE COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

Anna Boroff, Executive Director

MINNESOTA TELECOM ALLIANCE

Brent Christensen, President and CEO