

Congressman Bob Latta – Opening Statement
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
“Oversight of FirstNet and Emergency Communications”
March 14, 2013

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you holding this hearing and I thank the distinguished panel of witnesses for testifying today.

Public safety and emergency communications are an extremely important topic, one that affects every single American. That is why it is imperative that FirstNet is successful.

The nationwide interoperable public safety network is a massive undertaking— it is critically important that the communications system is done right by FirstNet— for the safety of all Americans.

On FirstNet, I have concerns that the role of the states is being overlooked. I’d like to submit for the record, a letter from the state of Ohio’s Chief Information Officer on concerns regarding FirstNet’s funding, communication, planning and representation.

I look forward to hearing the testimony of our witnesses and I look forward to a thoughtful and constructive discussion. I thank the Chairman and yield back.