



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive
Public Works Resource

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National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
HCHB Room 4812
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

**American Public Works Association
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Docket No: 120509050-1050-01**

The American Public Works Association (APWA) appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments concerning the development of the State and Local Implementation Grant Program for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN).

APWA is an organization dedicated to providing public works infrastructure and services to millions of people in rural and urban communities, both large and small. Working in the public interest, our nearly 29,000 members plan, design, build, operate, manage, administer and maintain the transportation, water supply, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential to our nation's economy and way of life.

Public works professionals play a crucial role in preparation, response and recovery operations addressing all hazards, disasters and emergencies which include events such as blizzards, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, pandemics or terror attacks. They are often the only first responders qualified and capable of providing services during disaster recovery efforts such as debris or snow removal, and operating pumping and drainage systems after a flood.

As the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) begins to develop the programmatic requirements which will govern the State and Local planning grants program, APWA would like to highlight why the NTIA will benefit from including local public works agencies in the State consultation process and why public works should be allowed primary access to the PSBN.

Local public works agencies are key to the daily welfare of communities nationwide and are the guardians of many of the nation's critical infrastructure systems. They need to be a part of the state consultation process. When disaster strikes, local public works agencies are called upon to serve at the forefront. As first responders, public works agencies work alongside police, fire and

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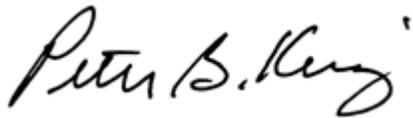
emergency medical responders, and need interoperable emergency communications to coordinate mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery operations with federal, state and local partners.

Providing public works with primary access to the PSBN will aid communities—and ultimately individuals—in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life and/or property in the wake of a disaster. Through the use of emergency communications, public works dispatch mobile and fixed assets during search and rescue activities, remove debris, restore utility/water services and assist with traffic incident management and the operation of incident command centers and evacuation centers. Through the use of the PSBN, public works agencies will be able to help maintain safer communities, thus creating a more resilient nation.

The American Public Works Association appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (202) 408-9541 or pking@apwa.net.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter B. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Peter B. King
APWA Executive Director