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March 20, 2024

The Honorable Laphonza Butler
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G-12
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: SUPPORT, FY 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for Radio Infrastructure & Interoperability Improvements in Solano County

Dear Senator Butler:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urge you to seek \$3 million in Fiscal Year 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending for Solano County's Radio Infrastructure and Interoperability Improvements project. This critically needed project funding would help Solano County secure a unified, modern communications system that would link all of the County's police, fire, and emergency response agencies into a single network and allow for interoperable communications among dozens of local, regional, and State agencies.

RADIO UPGRADE IS CRITICAL TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Solano County's antiquated VHF public safety radio system severely limits communication among police and fire agencies in Solano County and does not meet the needs of modern emergency response. The completion of the Solano County P25 radio interoperability system upgrade is a critical step towards achieving interoperable communications among emergency service providers from Sacramento to San Francisco. The P25 radio interoperability upgrade will enable dozens of cities and counties to communicate seamlessly, improving the ability of emergency service providers to coordinate and support each other in times of critical need.

ALLOWING JURISDICTIONS TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER

In addition to enhancing the usability and effectiveness of radio communications within the County, the proposed new system would implement a DOJ mandate for encrypted communications and allow for interoperable communications among regional jurisdictions and State agencies. In sum, this project will enable dozens of cities and counties, along with State and Federal agency partners, such as CAL Fire, CAL OES and Travis Air Force Base, to communicate seamlessly and support each other in times of critical need.

FEDERAL FUNDING WOULD SUPPORT NEW TECHNOLOGY

Regarding the project budget, federal funds would be spent on new communications tower sites and enhancements to support the necessary new technology, with several sites requiring grounding, shelter, power, and tower upgrades to implement the network. Funds also would be spent on P25 system equipment and microwave backhaul network equipment that would connect the radio sites together. In addition to these federal earmark funds, the County has also secured some local and state funds to help continue to move this shovel-ready project along.

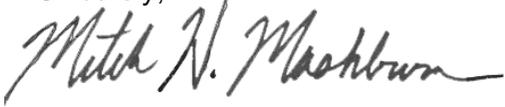
Thank you for your support and consideration of this important community project request.

Honorable Laphonza Butler

March 20, 2024

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch N. Mashburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mitch" and last name "Mashburn" clearly legible.

Mitch Mashburn, Chair

Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator

The Honorable John Garamendi, U.S. Representative

The Honorable Mike Thompson, U.S. Representative

The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator

The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, California State Assemblymember

The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors

Tim Flanagan, Chief Information Officer, Solano County

Paragon Government Relations

Karen Lange, SYASL Partners