



## National Troopers Coalition

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## National Troopers Coalition

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June 9, 2011

The Honorable John Rockefeller  
United States Senator  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller,

On behalf of the National Troopers Coalition (NTC) representing approximately 46,000 State Troopers and Highway Patrol Officers, I commend your efforts to support deployment of a nationwide interoperable broadband communications network for public safety professionals. This interoperable communications network will help our efforts to enhance public safety for Troopers and our nation's citizens.

Establishing an interoperable broadband communications system is extremely important to our first responder community. The allocation of D block will provide great benefits to troopers, firefighters and local police; however, we urge you to ensure this system is interoperable across the 700 megahertz band classes. Interoperability across band classes is vital to ensure emergency communications among first responder professionals should a catastrophic network failure occur. Furthermore, cross band interoperability will help reduce costs for equipment. (According to a September 1, 2010 Congressional Research Service report titled "Public Safety Communications and Spectrum Resources: Policy Issues for Congress" [Report Number: R40859] the cost for equipment would be reduced from \$3,000 per device to \$500.)

Respectfully, the NTC urges you to incorporate language to ensure interoperability across band classes into the final legislation. We look forward to supporting your efforts.

Sincerely,

Dennis Hallion  
Executive Director, NTC

