



*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eskoo  
Eighteenth District  
California*

70

January 28, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As the Commission prepares to establish indoor location accuracy rules for 9-1-1, I urge you to strongly consider the views expressed by many in the public safety and disability communities.

Given the increasing number of 9-1-1 calls being placed from wireless phones (70 percent by one estimate), it is critical that the agency adopt indoor location accuracy rules that are robust, enforceable and measurable. Specifically, the FCC should consider the following principles:

- Rules should ensure specific and enforceable metrics for indoor location accuracy. As the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) wrote in a letter to the FCC last week, "Proposals to blend indoor and outdoor results would result in data of little to no value in evaluating indoor location performance."
- Rules should establish a requirement for vertical accuracy. In a filing before the FCC last week, Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TDH) stated, "vertical accuracy is a key goal and what the communities we represent need so we can be located when we call 9-1-1 and cannot communicate our location for whatever reason." Similarly, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) stated that the value of vertical accuracy is important, "not only for finding the general public, but potentially also being able to use this technology to locate firefighters in the future as the technology becomes more robust."

- Rules should be technology neutral and ensure that wireless carriers are not limited to a single technology solution. Last month a coalition of public safety organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) stated, "the FCC must ensure the Carriers utilize all potential technology options in determining the dispatchable location of a 9-1-1 caller using a wireless device, including technology using both compensated and uncompensated barometric pressure."

I share your commitment to improving the indoor location accuracy of calls made to 9-1-1 and look forward to working with you to ensure the FCC's rules truly meet the needs of our first responders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna G. Eshoo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Anna G. Eshoo, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Energy and Commerce Committee

cc: The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner  
The Honorable Ajit Pai, Commissioner  
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter conveying your support for changes to the Commission's rules governing E911 location accuracy. In your letter, you urge the Commission to adopt E911 rules that would establish enforceable metrics and requirements for indoor location and vertical accuracy, as well as be technology neutral. The Commission has a responsibility to preserve certain core values even as technology – and consumers' use of that technology – evolves. Nowhere is that more imperative than in the arena of public safety. Since I arrived at the Commission, one of our top public safety priorities has been improving the effectiveness of E911 and adapting Commission rules to keep pace with the ubiquitous use of wireless services as consumers' primary method of reaching emergency services, no matter where they are located.

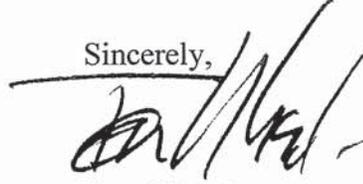
Last February, we adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposed aggressive but achievable goals for improved location accuracy. Through the hard work of many people at the Commission, in the public safety community, and in industry, the Commission on January 29, 2015, adopted an Order that significantly improves our E911 location accuracy rules. The Order establishes transparent and measurable benchmarks for both indoor and vertical location accuracy to ensure that wireless providers are meeting their commitments and complying with our requirements.

Underpinning the Order is the clear evidence in the record that there have been significant advances in wireless network and location technologies that can provide more precise location accuracy information to locate indoor callers. These advanced technologies provide a dispatchable location that includes street address, floor, and apartment or room number. The Order preserves the flexibility that carriers need to take advantage of these various technologies, while also establishing confidence-building measures, setting rational targets and deadlines for improving indoor location, and holding parties accountable for results. In particular this Order establishes achievable benchmarks centered on commitments made by the major nationwide non-nationwide carriers in concert with efforts by public safety that will close the E911 readiness gap. Together we can and will deliver on the promise of new technology to make Americans safer.

Page 2—The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler