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Public Comments on Enable Railroad Police Officers to Access Public Safety Interoperability and Mutual Aid Channels:=====

Title: Enable Railroad Police Officers to Access Public Safety Interoperability and Mutual Aid Channels

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Comment: As a police officer and dispatcher, I highly recommend that all police, state, local, and federal, use the same communications and interoperability standards, regulations, and rules. I refer back to Hurricane Katrina. It was one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history and part of the problem was a lack of interoperability. Efforts of the Federal, State, and Local law enforcement who came to assist during this disaster were almost useless because of their differences in communication.

Police officers who are certified and/or commissioned as a police officer under the laws of any state and employed full-time as a railroad police officer for a Class I, II, or III railroad should definitely be eligible to operate on the nationwide interoperability and mutual aid channels. Permitting these officers this information allows them to better communicate during a railroad disaster, plus it allows them the opportunity to listen to radio traffic around them and communicate with outside law enforcement in the case of an emergency. Part-time railroad police and Amtrak police should also be allowed this communication for the same reasons. For example, we know railroads are a target when it comes to

terrorism. State and Local law enforcement agencies will have intelligence that the railroad police could quickly benefit from to combat terror efforts.

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