

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)
)
Petition for Declaratory Ruling and/or Rulemaking) GN Docket 11-117, WC Docket 05-196,
Filed by Telecommunications Systems, Inc.) PS Docket 11-153, PS Docket 10-255

COMMENTS OF APCO

The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc.

(“APCO”) hereby submits the following brief comments in response to the Commission’s *Public Notice*, DA 13-273, released February 22, 2013, seeking comments regarding a Petition for Declaratory Ruling and/or Rulemaking filed by Telecommunications Systems, Inc. (“TCS Petition”) in the above-captioned proceedings.

Founded in 1935, APCO is the nation’s oldest and largest public safety communications organization. Most APCO members are state or local government employees who manage and operate communications systems -- including Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), dispatch centers, radio networks, and information technology -- for law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, forestry conservation, highway maintenance, disaster relief, and other public safety agencies. APCO has long been involved in Commission proceedings regarding 9-1-1 capability and other aspects of public safety communications.

The TCS Petition describes problems that it is facing as a target of what it claims are “predatory patent infringement suits” that potentially impact its ability to continue providing 9-1-1 services, such as call routing and location information. TCS asks the Commission to address this issue through a declaratory ruling on certain patent law-related issues, or to initiate

rulemaking proceedings to require intellectual property rights for 9-1-1 services to be licensed on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms.

APCO takes no position on the specific patent law issues raised in the TCS Petition. However, the 9-1-1 services that TCS and similar entities provide are critical to the success of 9-1-1 operations throughout the nation. As the Commission is well-aware, location technologies and call routing are essential for the effective and efficient dispatch of emergency personnel in response to calls to 9-1-1. Therefore, APCO urges the Commission to give appropriate consideration to the TCS Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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