

September 27, 2013

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *In the Matter of Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications, PS Docket No 11-153; and In the Matter of Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment, PS Docket No. 10-255*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 26, 2013, Scott Bergmann and Brian Josef of CTIA-The Wireless Association® (“CTIA”), spoke via telephone with Nicholas Degani, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Ajit Pai, regarding issues relevant to the above-listed proceeding and CTIA’s Petition for Reconsideration, or in the Alternative, for Clarification (“Petition”) of the Commission’s rules regarding a text-to-9-1-1 “bounce-back” notification.<sup>1</sup> Separately, on September 27, 2013, Mr. Josef spoke with David Goldman, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, regarding the same. Additionally, on September 27, 2013, Mr. Josef and Matthew Gerst of CTIA spoke with David Furth of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

As previously noted, the relief CTIA’s *Petition* requests will *not* prevent consumers who are roaming from receiving the bounce-back messages. CTIA’s *Petition* seeks simply to ensure that the Commission’s rules assign responsibilities to carriers in a manner that reflects technical realities.

During the conversations, CTIA addressed the Commission’s proposed amendment of Section 20.18(n)(7) in response to CTIA’s *Petition*. CTIA noted that any clarification of the home network and host network provider’s respective obligations to support a “bounce back” notification to a consumer who sends a text message to 9-1-1 while roaming on a host provider’s network must account for the technical realities of the existing SMS network architecture. Specifically, CTIA recommended that a covered home network text provider’s obligation to provide any bounce back message should account for whether the home network operates “in the area” that a consumer initiates the text-to-911, and not only whether the covered home network text provider supports text-to-911 services at that time.

CTIA also noted the technical infeasibility of any obligation that the covered text provider host network “transmit” the text-to-911 of a consumer roaming on the host network to the covered text provider home network and the home network’s responding “bounce

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<sup>1</sup> Petition for Reconsideration, or in the Alternative, for Clarification of CTIA–The Wireless

back” message due to the store-and-forward nature of CMRS provided SMS services.<sup>2</sup> For this reason, CTIA recommended that any rule ensure that the covered text provider host network not “impede” a consumer’s text-to-911 initiated while roaming on the host network and the responding “bounce back” message from the home network.

Further, CTIA noted that the technical feasibility of a home network’s ability to locate a consumer who is roaming on a host network in order to provide a “bounce back” message when text-to-911 is unavailable remains an open question. Notably, the FCC has tasked the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council (“CSRIC”) to study and report on the *technical feasibility* for wireless carriers to include E911 Phase 2 location accuracy and information in texts sent to 9-1-1 and make recommendations for including enhanced location information in texts to 9-1-1.<sup>3</sup> CTIA stands ready to work with the CSRIC to consider this issue and notes the additional challenges of location determination of texts to 9-1-1 in the roaming context.

Given the impending September 30, 2013 compliance deadline, CTIA respectfully requested that the Commission move swiftly to issue any amendments to Section 20.18(n)(7) in a manner that addresses CTIA’s *Petition* and consistent with the suggestions herein. Such amendments would prevent the Commission from imposing a technically infeasible requirement on wireless carriers, while still promoting the Commission’s goal of making a bounce-back message available to roaming wireless consumers.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this letter is being electronically filed via ECFS with your office. Please direct any questions to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brian M. Josef

Brian M. Josef  
Assistant Vice President – Regulatory Affairs  
CTIA – The Wireless Association®

cc: Nicholas Degani  
David Goldman  
David Furth

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<sup>2</sup> Emergency Access Advisory Committee (“EAAC”), *Report of Emergency Access Advisory Committee (EAAC) Subcommittee 1 on Interim Text Messaging to 9-1-1* (March 1, 2013) (“EAAC March 2013 Text Messaging Report”).

<sup>3</sup> CSRIC IV Working Group Descriptions and Leadership *available at* [http://transition.fcc.gov/bureaus/pshs/advisory/csr4/CSRIC\\_%20IV\\_Working\\_Group\\_Descriptions\\_%2009122013.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/bureaus/pshs/advisory/csr4/CSRIC_%20IV_Working_Group_Descriptions_%2009122013.pdf) (last visited Sept. 26, 2013).