

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Member Troy Carter

Hearing on “Legislative Solutions to Public Safety Communications in the United States”

December 16, 2025

Thank you, Ranking Member Pallone, and thank you to our witnesses for being here today.

As a Member representing Louisiana, I want to extend a special welcome to Captain Jack Varnado, who serves as President of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International and as the 9-1-1 Director of the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana. Thank you, Captain Varnado, for sharing your expertise as we discuss the importance of public safety communications and the legislation needed to make the necessary improvements to this critical infrastructure.

In Louisiana, we know all too well how devastating natural disasters like hurricanes and flooding can be to our communities. That is why having reliable public safety communications and resilient infrastructure is essential to protecting lives and ensuring effective emergency responses. Our communities must be prepared and well-equipped to respond when disasters or emergencies strike. That is why I was proud to introduce the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act with Chairman Hudson, which will modernize our 9-1-1 system infrastructure, save lives by reducing response times, and equip first responders with the best digital tools available.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act and discussing the importance of modernizing our outdated emergency systems during today's hearing.

I yield back.