

**As Reported by the Senate Public Safety, Local Government and  
Veterans Affairs Committee**

**130th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2013-2014**

**S. C. R. No. 15**

**Senator Patton**

**Cosponsors: Senators Seitz, Manning, LaRose, Hughes**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To urge the United States House of Representatives 1  
Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on 2  
Communications and Technology to hold regular 3  
hearings regarding the nationwide broadband public 4  
safety network, require the First Responder 5  
Network Authority (FirstNet) to identify the costs 6  
of such network to Ohio, and include related 7  
amendments to the law governing FirstNet. 8

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Ohio's first responders require mission critical 9  
communications infrastructure to effectively do their jobs; and 10

WHEREAS, Ohio has invested over \$500,000,000 in system assets 11  
that include over 200 tower sites, shelters, generators, mobile 12  
towers, microwave backhaul, consoles, and mobile and portable 13  
radios; and 14

WHEREAS, Over 55,000 first responders and public service 15  
users at the federal, state, and local government levels rely on 16  
the assets that Ohio has invested in; and 17

WHEREAS, The federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation 18

Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority 19  
(FirstNet) within the United States Department of Commerce 20  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration and 21  
tasked FirstNet with building and maintaining a single, 22  
nationwide, interoperable broadband public safety network; and 23

WHEREAS, FirstNet is requiring states to inventory their 24  
assets and develop statewide plans to allow federal use or 25  
takeover of those assets for the undetermined nationwide broadband 26  
public safety network; and 27

WHEREAS, FirstNet is requiring states to opt into, and 28  
provide an undetermined level of financial support to, the 29  
nationwide broadband public safety network; and 30

WHEREAS, FirstNet appears to lack sufficient funding for the 31  
nationwide broadband public safety network, but is requiring a 32  
self-sustaining model; and 33

WHEREAS, FirstNet lacks planning and did not seek input from 34  
Ohio as evidenced by the witnesses who testified before, and 35  
submitted testimony to, the United States House of Representatives 36  
Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications 37  
and Technology in a March 2013, hearing entitled "Oversight of 38  
FirstNet and Emergency Communications"; now therefore be it 39

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly 40  
of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the Subcommittee on 41  
Communications and Technology to hold regular hearings regarding 42  
the nationwide broadband public safety network and require that 43  
FirstNet create a publicly vetted business plan that identifies 44  
the exact costs that Ohio will be mandated to appropriate or 45  
obligate for the nationwide broadband public safety network; and 46  
be it further 47

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly 48  
of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the Subcommittee on 49

Communications and Technology to include amendments to the law 50  
that would allow Ohio to opt-out of the nationwide broadband 51  
public safety network with no net costs; and be it further 52

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly 53  
of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the Subcommittee on 54  
Communications and Technology to include amendments to the law 55  
that require FirstNet to provide full written assurances that 56  
communications provided by the nationwide broadband public safety 57  
network will meet and exceed the current level of service for 58  
Ohio's state and local public safety officers in the areas of 59  
reliability, redundancy, and state-based system control; and be it 60  
further 61

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly 62  
of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the Subcommittee on 63  
Communications and Technology to include amendments to the law 64  
that require FirstNet to provide fair market compensation to Ohio 65  
for access and utilization of state-owned assets in support of the 66  
network's deployment; and be it further 67

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly 68  
of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the United States Congress 69  
to reconsider the statute and appropriations creating FirstNet; 70  
and be if further 71

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 72  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the Speaker and Clerk 73  
of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro 74  
Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, all members of 75  
the United States House of Representatives Energy and Commerce 76  
Committee, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and 77  
the news media of Ohio. 78