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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEB SITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

September 19, 2013

Mr. Gregory Brown
President and Chief Executive Officer
Motorola Solutions, Inc.
1303 East Algonquin Road
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Dear Mr. Brown:

Recent media reports have detailed your company's and your paid consultants' extensive behind-the-scenes efforts to undermine the efforts of the First Responders Network Authority (or "FirstNet"), the entity Congress established last year to deploy and manage a nationwide, interoperable wireless broadband network for first responders. I am surprised and deeply disappointed by these reports. Your company's actions to oppose this important effort to strengthen our Nation's public safety communications systems directly contradicts the intent of Congress, and it potentially endangers the success of a network that will benefit millions of law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders.

Congress created FirstNet in the 2012 Public Safety Spectrum Act to develop and deploy a fast, reliable truly interoperable nationwide broadband communications system that public safety agencies around the country could use to communicate and share information. An important part of FirstNet's mission is to bring new competition to the public safety communications equipment market by promoting the use of open, non-proprietary standards for that network. Once these standards are in place, public safety will be able to leverage its common needs to demand lower prices for devices and other equipment from vendors.

The construction of a nationwide interoperable public safety network threatens the current dominance your company enjoys in the public safety radio device and equipment market. But it also represents a long-overdue step forward for public safety communications. Everybody must now work together to maximize the limited resources we have to build this new network.

While your company's public statements welcome the changes the Public Safety Spectrum Act is bringing to public safety communications, press reports are revealing a different story. They indicate that you are financing a public relations and lobbying campaign to erode support for FirstNet's work and mission. They suggest that your company has chosen not to accept the necessary changes the Act is making to our Nation's public safety communications, but instead that you are trying to protect your company's entrenched position in the current public safety market.

Mr. Gregory Brown
September 19, 2013

I will not abide a return to the model of costly, and often proprietary, equipment that our Nation's first responders face in narrowband communications. This model has led to disparate systems even among public safety agencies in the same jurisdiction. And I will not stand by while your company continues to defend a business plan solely because you are unwilling to make the investments and commitments necessary to be a true competitor on the new level playing field for public safety communications equipment.

I urge you to immediately cease your campaign and to work constructively with the FirstNet board. I urge your company – under its own letterhead – to compete head-to-head with other vendors to provide the best equipment for FirstNet and our Nation's first responders. When it comes to public safety, the needs of our local, regional and national public safety and homeland security interests should always come before corporate profits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Rockefeller IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman