



Dear E9-1-1 Institute Members,

Today, the United States approved the conference report on a major piece of legislation that will help advance E9-1-1 throughout the country. About 3 years ago, Representative Bart Gorton (D-TN) and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced legislation, with the strong support of the Co-Chairs of the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus that would address many critical issues related to the delivery of E9-1-1 services using Internet voice services.

Passage of the **“New and Emerging Technologies 911 Act of 2008”** or the **“Net 911 Improvement Act of 2008”** by the U.S. Senate puts this important legislation one step closer to enactment. This is the final report that was recently approved by the House-Senate Conference Committee, established to develop a final version of the legislation which passed both chambers last year. The legislation has strong bi-partisan support and is expected to pass the House of Representatives and sent to the White House for signature.

The purpose of this Act is to promote and enhance public safety by facilitating the rapid deployment of IP-enabled 911 and enhanced 911 services, encourage the Nation’s transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network, and improve 911 and E911 access to those with disabilities.

Specifically, the Act would:

- Require IP-enabled voice service providers to provide their customers with 9-1-1 and E9-1-1 services as well as allow such providers to access 9-1-1 data bases in order to provide such services;
- Preserves the authority of State, Tribal or local governments to impose 9-1-1 fees to support 9-1-1 services;
- Require the 9-1-1 Coordination office, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to establish a national plan for the migration to an IP-enabled emergency network capable of receiving and responding to citizen-activated emergency communications systems and

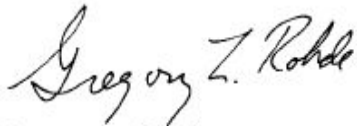
improving information sharing among all emergency response entities; and

- Provides liability protection for IP-enabled voice service providers and emergency communications systems in a manner similar to that afforded to wireless and wire line providers with respect to 9-1-1 services.

This legislation is a major step forward for citizens, public safety, and industry to improve 9-1-1 services in this country. I applaud the dedication and commitment to this legislation by the lead sponsors, Rep. Gorton and Sen. Nelson, as well as the Co-Chairs of the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus, Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK), Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL). All of these lawmakers worked hard to advance this legislation and their staff deserve our gratitude.

For more information about the legislation, please visit www.e911institute.org. We will keep you posted on further developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory L. Rohde". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gregory L. Rohde