



For Immediate Release
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E9-1-1 Institute Commends House Energy and Commerce Committee

Background: The House Energy and Commerce Committee today approved telecommunications legislation that included significant measure to update our 9-1-1 systems.

Following are comments from Gregory L. Rohde, Executive Director of the E9-1-1 Institute.

“The House Energy and Commerce Committee has done the country a great service by passing legislation that would help instill access to E9-1-1 as a standard feature of IP-based communications systems. Under an amendment offered by Representatives Bart Gordon (D-TN), Chip Pickering (R-MS), John Shimkus (R-IL), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Michael Ferguson (R-NJ), providers of Internet-based telephone services will be required to provide 9-1-1 and E9-1-1 services to their customers. The amendment also ensures that providers of VoIP services will have access to the necessary 9-1-1 infrastructure, such as selective routers, in order to direct 9-1-1 calls to the appropriate PSAP. This action compliments the requirements established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) last year and it demonstrates the kind of federal leadership that is needed to advance E9-1-1 in the United States.”

“The inclusion of these E9-1-1 provisions into telecommunications reform legislation sends a strong message that E9-1-1 needs to be an essential part of all communications systems. This action is an important step down the path of making E9-1-1 an essential component the new communications platform to which technological advancement is making possible.”

About the E9-1-1 Institute. The E9-1-1 Institute (www.e911institute.org) is a not-for-profit organization, which provides administrative and policy support to the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus (Co-chaired by Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT), Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Representative John Shimkus (R-IL), and Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA)). The purpose of the E9-1-1 Institute is to promote public education and awareness of E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues and serve the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus as a clearinghouse of information on E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues. Gregory L. Rohde, former Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, serves as the E9-1-1 Institute’s Executive Director.

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