

STATE OF CONNECTICUT ~ OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



## ATTORNEY GENERAL GEORGE JEPSSEN

### ATTORNEY GENERAL JOINS NATIONAL EFFORT TO ALLOCATE BANDWIDTH FOR PUBLIC SAFETY USE

*For Immediate Release*

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HARTFORD – Attorney General George Jepsen and 41 other state attorneys general are calling on Congress to allocate a specific broadband spectrum to public safety and designate the wireless bandwidth, known as D-Block, for law enforcement use.

In a letter to congressional leaders, the attorneys general said it is imperative to give first responders the capacity they need as field communications become more data intensive. The interruption of communications by natural disasters alone, make the allocation of the specific bandwidth vital to public safety.

“In Connecticut, Hurricane Irene knocked out power to half the state and caused widespread interruptions in telephone and other communication services. Repeated natural disasters in recent years have driven home the need for a reliable, nationwide communication system for first responders,” Attorney General Jepsen said.

The attorneys general did not endorse any one of the several bills before Congress, but urged congressional leaders to take action before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

“In the spirit of bi-partisanship, the nation’s attorneys general urge you to protect citizens across all our states – by ensuring that the public safety professionals who have committed to serve and protect can effectively communicate with one another in the face of a dire emergency or attack,” the letter read.

D-Block is part of the spectrum -- 768-763 megahertz and 788-793 megahertz -- being freed up as media companies convert to digital signals. Law enforcement groups have proposed the bandwidth be used to develop a reliable, rapid and comprehensive wireless communications system for law enforcement.

Attorneys general for Mississippi, Montana, South Dakota and Washington took the lead on this issue. The letter was issued by the National Association of Attorneys General.

See the entire [letter](#) – (PDF-392KB)

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