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**Congress of the United States**  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS,  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET

**TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

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December 9, 2013

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St SW  
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write regarding recent reports filed with the FCC that appear to show that a growing percentage of 9-1-1 calls made from wireless phones do not contain required location information with 9-1-1 operators. This data, collected from multiple states across the country, indicates that the problem may extend nationwide.

As you know, in 1996, the FCC began adopting rules aimed at ensuring that first responders could more easily locate wireless callers dialing 9-1-1. Specifically, the FCC's Phase II E9-1-1 rules in 2001 required the delivery of latitude and longitude of the caller. These rules took effect more than 10 years ago, yet these reports appear to show that the share of wireless 9-1-1 calls accompanied by accurate information and delivered to emergency operators is dropping across all carriers.

An increasing number of 9-1-1 calls are being placed from wireless phones, with some estimates as high as 70 percent. Moreover, a growing percentage of these wireless calls are made from indoors or other areas where GPS signals are compromised. These trends highlight the need for the FCC to examine closely all of the data from across the country that was filed in this proceeding, to enforce existing rules, and to take additional action where necessary.

I am encouraged that the FCC conducted a workshop "to discuss recent developments in the use of wireless technology to contact emergency services and the provision and quality of 911 location information delivered to Public Safety Access Points." I look forward to learning what steps the commission plans to take to address this critical issue.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to enhancing the quality and reliability of 9-1-1 services across the nation.

Sincerely,

HOWARD COBLE  
Member of Congress

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