



October 11, 2017

Honorable Stephen Carr, Chair  
House Committee on Energy And Technology  
Vermont State House  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Chairman Carr:

Governor Scott received the proposed FirstNet Plan on September 29, along with other governors around the nation. Governors have until December 28 to decide whether or not to opt in to the FirstNet deployment option. If no action is taken by that date, a state will, by default, opt in. In those states that – either actively or passively – opt in, AT&T will begin to deploy the radio access network (RAN) portion of the network. According to the FirstNet website, 24 states have to date opted in. Fifteen states, including Vermont, have active procurement requests out for alternative RAN providers. On October 5, New Hampshire’s Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee voted to recommend opting out to Governor Sununu and instead have Rivada Networks build and operate the RAN in New Hampshire.

We believe consulting with states that are still reviewing options and collaborating with them on efforts to negotiate a deployment of the RAN that is favorable to Vermont, regardless of which provider is selected, will be invaluable.

Last week, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns adopted its 2018 Municipal Policy at our annual membership meeting in Killington, Vermont. The policy states that VLCT supports: developing a transparent and comprehensive planning process and collaborative governance structure that includes a broad spectrum of stakeholders to resolve technology issues; providing statewide access to complete, affordable fiber optics service that benefits public safety, first responders, and builds the economy; active participation by VLCT and municipalities in a transparent governance structure regulating development of fiber optics service that is complete, statewide, and affordable to municipalities for both the use of public safety, first responders and for building Vermont’s economy.

As you consider these issues, we urge you to reach out to first responders, law enforcement officers at the local level, and your VLCT Advocacy staff for assistance about the likely impacts of proposals.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Karen B. Horn, Director  
Public Policy & Advocacy

*Sponsor of:*

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