

Senator Jeanette White
Chair Senate Committee on Government Operations

March 29, 2022

Dear Senator White,

As Board Chair I'm writing on behalf of the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA) to support the Department of Public Safety's recommendations to distribute \$11-\$14 million for regional public safety dispatch centers.

We ask that you assign \$3.2-\$4 million of these funds for the Capital Region Communication System Proposal, which follows the recommendations of CVPSA's Televate Telecommunications Needs Assessment study completed in August 2021 (attached). On January 21, 2022 Montpelier City Council directed its city manager, Bill Fraser, to dedicate staff time to implement recommendations of this study.

On March 10, 2022 the CVPSA Board awarded Televate a contract to develop a Telecommunications Equipment RFP based on this study and in partnership with the cities of Barre and Montpelier, and Capital Fire Mutual Aid System, which represents over 30 fire departments and serves over 74,000 Central Vermont residents. These are the same entities within Capital Region Communication System.

CVPSA's number one priority, and the region's most urgent need, is to replace and update the current seriously flawed, fragile, and obsolete public safety telecommunication equipment as soon as possible to avoid a break down crisis.

Please note that Kim Cheney and Stephen Whitaker have not been authorized to act on behalf of the CVPSA Board, and do not express the opinions of the CVPSA Board. Unfortunately, this is not the first time CVPSA has had to issue such disclaimers about these two individuals.

I and CVPSA Board Vice Chair, Doug Hoyt former Montpelier Police Chief, would greatly appreciate being able to testify before your committee. Our consultant, Televate, can be available remotely should your committee desire.

I've attached the following in PDF format: this letter, the Televate Telecommunications Needs Assessment Report and the accepted Televate's proposal to develop the related equipment RFP. Note that I'm also Vice President of the Montpelier City Council and appreciate how generous city council has been with Montpelier staff time to support CVPSA.

Sincerely,
Dona Bate

Dona Bate, CVPSA Board Chair
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