

Information Technology Committee
ND Legislative Management
ND University System Information Technologies Building
4349 James Ray Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Wednesday, June 18 2014

Honorable Representative Weisz and distinguished committee members:

My Name is Becky Ault. I am the director of the Grand Forks Public Safety Answering Point and Co-Chair the ND 911 Association Legislative Committee.

The North Dakota 911 Association has been fully supportive of Senate Bill 2353 requesting Legislative Management to study statewide land mobile radio communications in North Dakota.

We strongly support a statewide study to determine:

- What the current communications systems are and how they work together
- Develop long term goals, objectives and standards for a standardized interoperable communications system serving public safety entities leveraging existing systems where possible
- Identifying needed improvements and a plan of action to achieve this goal.

The ND 911 Association at their most recent quarterly meeting in June of 2014 voted to support moving forward with a Statewide Comprehensive Radio Study.

The public safety radio system was last studied in 1999. Technology has evolved and we need to reassess our systems. In addition, there have been significant changes in infrastructure since that time across the state.

A comprehensive study will allow for the development of a well formulated plan to support the transition to a truly interoperable communication system. We want to ensure that the system that is developed is all encompassing and will meet our needs long term, both in our rural areas as well as our more populated regions. We want to ensure that the choices we make to enhance radio communications are well planned out to meet our goals and objectives, and a comprehensive study would enable this to occur.

We have a very capable emergency response community. We have joint needs across all response disciplines for good solid communications that will meet our needs now and into the future to best be able to serve our residents in the event of an emergency or disaster, as well as routine emergency response traffic.

We urge a high priority on a statewide land mobile radio communication study.