



June 10, 2015

The Honorable Terry Brandstad
Governor of Iowa
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Brandstad,

On behalf of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), I want to join you today in recognizing the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Board (ISICB) for their leadership in public safety communications interoperability. In particular, I would like to recognize your outstanding state team assigned to FirstNet planning in Iowa for their incredible progress and national leadership in conducting outreach to public safety stakeholders in Iowa and collecting data that will inform the FirstNet network acquisition process and the plan for deployment in Iowa. This mission will save lives and provide a safer operating environment for our first responders.

Tom Lampe and his team have reached out to FirstNet early and often, beginning in 2013. Tom clearly recognized the impact of a nationwide broadband system dedicated to public safety. He was determined to work proactively on behalf of Iowa towards this effort.

Your team has demonstrated progress that stands out among our 56 states and territories. We've highlighted Iowa's activity and methodology in a FirstNet website blog, in our weekly email update to stakeholders, during our initial State consultation process, and most recently, on a panel discussion at our national April Single Points of Contact Meeting of successful preparation for the FirstNet initial consultation meeting. It is a remarkable story:

- Within a one year time frame, public safety officials in all 99 counties in Iowa have received a FirstNet outreach presentation, delivered in a well-organized and systematic manner.
- The initial phase of state consultation was completed early and data collection has been extensive.
- Iowa has developed a detailed next phase outreach plan to establish governance in each of the six Homeland Security Regions, through Regional Interoperability Committees.

It is apparent to us that the results of these planning efforts will prove to be a valuable asset when the FirstNet network is implemented in Iowa. We are aware of your advocacy and initiatives towards expanding the benefits of broadband through multiple initiatives including "Connect Every Iowan" and "Connect Every Acre". Today, by recognizing your ISICB Chair Tom Lampe with the Iowa "Broadband Hero" award, you are affirming the importance of connecting public safety and broadband services. Our congratulations to Tom Lampe, and our thanks to you and your team, both past and present, for leadership in the future direction of public safety communications nationwide.

Sincerely,



TJ Kennedy
Acting Executive Director
First Responder Network Authority