Before the
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION OF STATEWIDE EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

March 12, 2015

In the Matter of:

Notice of Proposed Regulatory Change related to	)	
DESPP regulations regarding the subsidization of	)	**DSET Docket No. 13-01**
Regional Emergency Communications Centers, multi-town	)	
Public Safety Answering Points and eligible municipalities	)	

To whom it may concern,

As Chief of the Ashford Volunteer Fire Department I want to express my opposition to the modification of the 911 Funding Subsidy as proposed.

The State has for many years encouraged regionalization of services. Under many administrations in State Government Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service and our larger sister Regional Centers have been touted as the model entities as it relates to regionalization. We prove year after year that regionalization can and does make sense for our areas in Connecticut. Without a regional approach to 911 call processing and dispatching of emergency services each town would be forced to provide these services at a cost that most towns could not bear. While Tolland County Mutual Aid receives a large subsidy from the 911 Fund it should be noted that we also serve fifteen towns and twenty-two emergency service organizations. We have continued to grow over the years as municipalities have realized the cost benefits to joining a regionalized effort to coordinate emergencies.

While it may be of particular interest to some to modify the subsidy I am opposed to providing additional funding to smaller centers by reducing the funding of the three largest in the State. These three centers serve 1711.8 square miles, or 35.3% of the state's area. Tolland County Mutual Aid alone serves approximately 140,000 of the State's population.

I would strongly suggest that if a subsidy modification needs to occur it can be done in such a manner that will not reduce current funding levels but perhaps by evaluating the revenues and expenditures from the 911 Fund and make adjustments where appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne C. Fletcher
Chief, AVFD Inc.