



Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

Stan Soby, First Selectman

March 10, 2015

Honorable Dora Schriro, Commissioner
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
1111 Country Club Road Middletown, CT 06457

RE: DSET Docket No. 13-01

Dear Commissioner Schriro,

I would like to express my strong support of the proposed changes to regulations pertaining to the funding of regional public safety answering points, as proposed in the above-referenced Notice of Proposed Rule Change regarding the State subsidy formula to Regional PSAP / Dispatch Centers.

Colchester Emergency Communications serves the towns of Colchester, East Hampton, Marlborough, East Haddam, Haddam Neck, Salem, Lebanon and Bozrah. Currently, it is in the process of consolidating with Montville, effective July 1, 2015.

It is important that this change be supported for the following reasons:

- It will insure that 9-1-1 calls continue to be answered by the regional PSAPs
- It allows smaller PSAPs to afford and enjoy advanced technology to serve First Responders
- It removes the inequality and disparity in the current subsidy formula
- Municipal budgets will benefit from less volatility in funding assessments
- It insures continuity of coverage for emergency services to municipalities dispatched by regional centers
- It encourages consolidation efforts on an equitable basis

The State commissioned a PSAP study by the Kimball Group in 2011 in which the inequity and disproportionate subsidy funding was highlighted. The current formula does not represent the relative workloads of the respective PSAPs.

This NPRC changes the formula so that the subsidies are based on Call Volumes and Population on a 75%/25% basis. This will represent the relative workloads equitably.

With redistribution of the current funds spread over time, there will be no financial increase for the department or the state on any level.

Thank you, in advance, for your assistance with this very important matter.

Respectfully,


Stan Soby
First Selectman

c: Sen. Arthur Linares
Rep. Linda Orange
Rep. Melissa Ziobron
Colchester Board of Selectmen