



AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

Your Comprehensive  
Public Works Resource

[www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net)

2345 Grand Blvd., Suite 700  
Kansas City, MO 64108-2625  
816-472-6100 800-848-APWA  
fax 816-472-1610

1275 K Street NW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20005-4083  
202-408-9541  
fax 202-408-9542

May 11, 2010

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman  
House Homeland Security Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter T. King  
Ranking Member  
House Homeland Security Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member King:

On behalf of the American Public Works Association's (APWA) 29,000 members, I am writing to urge you to introduce a Manager's Amendment to the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2010 (H.R. 5081) which would include public works in the bill's definition of an emergency response provider (Section 3 (f)(2)).

When disaster strikes, local public works agencies are called upon to serve at the forefront during emergencies. Accordingly, public works agencies depend on a reliable interoperable emergency communications system that connects them to other first responders, including law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical professionals and other public works agencies during response and recovery operations. Through the use of emergency communications, public works dispatch mobile and fixed assets during search and rescue activities, construct barricades and remove debris, restore utility services, and assist with the operation of incident command centers and evacuation centers.

Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the President and the Department of Homeland Security recognized public works as a first responder in Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8, and acknowledged that to combat emerging threats all first response disciplines must work together during prevention, preparedness, response and recovery operations.

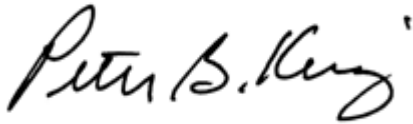
APWA members plan, design, build, operate, manage, administer and maintain the transportation, water supply, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential to our nation's economy and way of life.

PRESIDENT  
Larry T. Koehle, PEng., MPA  
Brampton, Ontario

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Peter B. King

Again, we strongly urge you to offer a Manager's Amendment to H.R. 5081 which would include public works in the bill's definition of an emergency response provider. I look forward to working with you to further strengthen our nation's interoperable public safety communications network. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Laura Berkey, Government Affairs Manager, in APWA's Washington, D.C. Office at (202) 218-6734 or [lberkey@apwa.net](mailto:lberkey@apwa.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter B. King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a distinct "K".

Peter B. King  
APWA Executive Director

cc: APWA Emergency Management Committee  
APWA Government Affairs Committee  
Edward Parkinson, Professional Staff, House Homeland Security Committee