

GREGORY F. MURPHY, M.D.  
3RD DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

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May 3, 2024

Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I write in support of Beaufort County's Emergency Communications Radio Project seeking \$500,000. This project will provide funding for the purchase of mobile and handheld radios for 12 volunteers, 1 industrial and 1 municipal fire departments in Beaufort County. Additionally, handheld radios will be purchased for Beaufort County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers. These radios will provide interoperability for these agencies as they respond to emergencies across the County and at all public school campuses in the County.

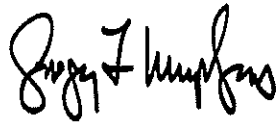
The National Task Force on Interoperability defined interoperability as "the ability of public safety agencies to talk to one another via radio communication systems - to exchange voice and/or data with one another on demand, in real time, when needed." From the report by the National Commission on the Terrorist Attacks on the United States: "The inability to communicate was a critical element at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Somerset County, Pennsylvania, crash sites, where multiple agencies and multiple jurisdictions responded. The occurrence of this problem at three very different sites is strong evidence that compatible and adequate communications among public safety organizations at the local, state, and federal levels remains an important problem."

Without federal funding support, the communication interoperability needs of Beaufort County public safety agencies may not be met in a timely manner. Volunteer public safety agencies struggle to raise funds to support their services and without federal funding for this project it would likely take years to acquire all the radios needed for these agencies. Federal funding will allow this project to provide radios in a timely manner and help meet the public safety communication interoperability needs of the included agencies.

This project has a strong federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family. I am most grateful for your careful consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory F. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G".

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress  
3<sup>rd</sup> District North Carolina