



President **Vice-President** **Secretary** **Treasurer**
John Merklinger **David Hopkins** **Mark Balistreri** **Sue Crimmins**
Monroe County Steuben County Rensselaer County Herkimer County

Officers:

Dear Senator,

I am writing to you today as a constituent and asking that you sponsor 2 pieces of Legislation in the Senate that will correct a situation that has been an issue for far too long.

Issue one addresses the \$1.20 surcharge (formerly known as the 911 surcharge) that is applied to and collected from the use of cellular devices within New York State. This surcharge needs to be directed to the 911 Center that serves the region in which the owner of the device resides within. These funds are desperately needed to purchase and maintain the equipment, services and staffing that the Emergency Services communities rely on to manage dispatch requests. These agencies must have funding so that the local counties or cities that they serve do not have to use local taxpayer funds to provide these mission critical services. The fact that New York State has been identified as one of the 7 states across the country that raid these funds now precludes the state from being eligible to apply for certain Federal Grant Programs. We need to have that ability. Your proposed Legislation would make that revenue stream available to these agencies.

Issue two requires that Legislation be drafted that would be apply, collect, and distribute a surcharge on the prepaid cellular devices that today account for 42% of cellular sales. These devices have been permitted to be used without paying for the benefit of emergency services and that practice must end. This new surcharge should include any device that has access to the 911 network. Voice, video, or text services should all be included.

Our local tax dollars should not be the vehicle that pays for the required upgrades and system replacements that the 911 industry faces as our communications networks continue to evolve. The ability for the 911 Centers to accept requests for services by voice, text, email, or chat are only examples of how they could or should be processed today. We are unaware of the new technology that the future will hold. We only ask that you and our other elected officials support funding mechanisms that allow for the 911 industry to remain capable to accept and process these requests for Life Saving services.

Yours Truly,

Name: _____ PRINT _____ SIGNATURE / DATE

Print Physical Address: _____