[Insert Letterhead Here]

[Name] Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Address] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Address] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[Date] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RE: Urgent Need to Improve Public Safety by Implementing NextGen911 Compromised by State of New Jersey Diverting Funds from the E911 Trust Fund**

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

I want to bring to your attention a situation critical to protecting the lives and property of our citizens. States across the US are installing a new 911 system called NextGen911. This technology will revolutionize 911 networks by providing cell phones the ability to send text/picture/video information to our 911 centers. The Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) estimates more than 70% of 911 calls are from a cell phone (<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/911-wireless-services>) and this percentage is growing on an annual basis, as residents continue to disconnect landline phone service.

NextGen911 will provide our First Responders with additional information and capabilities to address life threatening situations. I want to highlight a just a few features of this technology:

* Videos of crimes in progress can be sent directly to first responders on the scene;
* A picture of a perpetrator is much better than a verbal description;
* A victim of abuse in hiding can text information to the 911 center when a voice call is not advisable;
* Hearing and speech impaired citizens cannot communicate with 911 centers without clumsy/obsolete/unreliable conversion devices;
* Potential terror threats can be alerted silently thereby supporting “say something, see something” campaigns

Unfortunately, this life saving technology cannot be implemented because the State of New Jersey diverts the funds from the E911 System and Emergency Response Trust Fund to other purposes. See 2016 filings to the FCC by the New Jersey Wireless Association <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001528932> and the New Jersey Association of Counties <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001530427> . These filings detail the issues with the process the State of New Jersey uses for the collection and distribution of funds. Note that New Jersey’s fund diversion is the largest of any of the states, which has increased to 90% this year. And New Jersey is the only state that does not provide ANY funding to county and municipal 911 centers, even though these centers answer the vast majority of 911 calls in the state.

I urge you to immediately sponsor/support legislation that will overhaul the oversight and operation of 911 technology in the state. There are already other states we can use as models for improving the management of our 911 networks. For example, adopting a plan such as the one used in Maryland would have the following benefits:

* Generate additional revenue from prepaid cell phone service. The majority of states have an E911 charge associated with prepaid service. Based on the percentage of revenue collected from prepaid in other states, this could be as much as $20,000,000 per year in New Jersey. Currently prepaid customers are getting a “free ride” as they have access to the E911 network without paying anything to support it.
* Overhaul the management of the E911 Trust Fund to give all of the stakeholders of the E911network input into the setting of priorities and operational quality/reliability measurements.

I thank you for your consideration in this matter and look forward to your support in Trenton.

Sincerely,