

(Washington, D.C.) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today applauded the announcement that New Jersey will receive \$39,368,152 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to create a wireless public safety broadband network, which will support local first responders communications. Earlier this year, Holt joined Democratic members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation in support of funding for the network. The U.S. Department of Commerce announced the funding today, with the grant coming from the ARRA’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

“This is another example of New Jersey benefitting from investments we made when we enacted the Economic Recovery Act. As I said when I joined members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation in urging the Department of Commerce to award this funding, we need to ensure that our local law enforcement needs are being met. This funding addresses the critical need – identified by the 9/11 Commission - for our first responders to communicate and coordinate with each other during emergencies. This funding will create jobs to set up this network and help keep our communities safe.”

The \$39.7 million in funding will support the establishment of an interoperable 700 MHz public safety wireless, improving coordination between 51 public safety agencies and 30,000 public safety users.

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