

April 24, 2021

Karen Bolstridge  
Maine Land Use Planning Commission  
106 Hogan Rd, Suite 8  
Bangor, Maine 04401

Dear Ms. Bolstridge,

The people of New Hampshire and Maine share more than a border. We share similar geography, a kindred spirit, and even resources, especially in our merged remoteness where the Saco, Androscoggin, and Magalloway Rivers are oblivious to state lines.

Among those shared resources is mutual aid between public safety agencies on both sides of the border. When coordinating mutual aid and emergency response, communication is a necessity exacerbated by the remoteness. As the former New Hampshire Fish and Game Lieutenant for Coos County, I have a greater appreciation than most for this truth.

All too often, I saw how a lack of communication capacity in an emergency situation proved deadly despite everyone's best efforts. That changed for Coos County in 2016 when Wireless Partners built a 16 tower 4G cellular network, significantly improving our communications capacity and no doubt saving lives.

I was therefore delighted to hear that Wireless Partners, and their sister company Rising Tide Towers, would be partnering with AT&T to launch FirstNet in New Hampshire and Maine. Established by Congress in 2012, FirstNet is a national broadband network that will provide interoperability at the local level between first responders of varying agencies.

Rising Tide Towers has submitted applications to the LUPC to construct FirstNet towers in Dallas Plantation and Magalloway. I am pleased to report back that the construction in Magalloway is complete and currently provides a continuum of interoperability from Coos County, NH to Oxford and Franklin Counties in Maine. This is much needed cellular coverage and I am certain having this tower will save lives.

With your help, Dallas Plantation will also become part of the FirstNet network, enhancing communication between public safety agencies whose call to serve knows no border. These applications therefore have my unequivocal support and I encourage the LUPC to approve them as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Lt. Wayne Saunders (Ret.)  
NH Fish and Game