

NEW AND EMERGING TECH-
NOLOGIES 911 IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer unanimous consent to consider the Senate amendment to H.R. 3403, the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008.

When Americans dial 911, they expect the call will go through, regardless of what phone they use. That is why Congress acted in 1999 and 2004 to ensure all Americans had access to 911 services on their wireless phones.

Congress now needs to act to ensure that all Americans have access to lifesaving 911 services on their Voice over the Internet Protocol or VoIP phones and other new technologies.

When I first drafted this legislation in 2005, the intent was to integrate VoIP phones into the Nation's 911 system. Since then the bill has been expanded to include nonvoice technologies used by the deaf and hard of hearing community and other innovative technologies that will exponentially improve public safety for all Americans.

Specifically, the bill will provide VoIP phone service providers direct access to the 911 system at the same rates, terms and conditions, as wireless phone providers. The bill also authorizes VoIP service providers to share customer location information with public safety answering points, PSAPs. This will ensure VoIP services providers can provide full E-911 services to their customers.

The bill extends existing State laws protecting 911 calls made using wireline and wireless phones to not only VoIP 911 calls, but also to any service obligated by the FCC to provide 911 in future, and any service that coordinates with local 911 authorities to offer voluntary 911 emergency services. This will include Video Relay Services and text service used by the deaf and hard of hearing, and new car based 911 services.

By doing this, we will encourage the rapid deployment of innovative new lifesaving 911 technologies, rather than wait for Congress to extend essential liability protections to new technologies.

The bill preserves State, Tribal and local governments' authority to levy 911 fees and stops such fees from being diverted for non 911 purposes.

Finally, the legislation seeks to modernize the Nation's 911 system by requiring the National 911 Coordination Office to establish a national plan to move to an IP-based emergency response network, and allowing 911 PSAP grants to be used for IP-based equipment.

Today's 911 system uses 30-year-old wire and switch technology. Moving to an IP-based system will enable PSAPs for the first time to be interoperable with each other and other first responders. It will also allow them to handle a range of technologies—digital or analog, wireless phone, video, text messaging, data, satellite, VoIP, translation services and even maps of buildings. And it will allow PSAPs to stay operating even if the phone system goes

down or their physical locations are destroyed. Events like 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina where 911 systems were overwhelmed highlight why a robust IP based 911 system must be a priority.

H.R. 3403 is supported by the National Emergency Numbering Association, the VON Coalition, the National Cable & Telecommunications Association, Earthlink, Inc, the Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology, Motorola, Intrado, the Telecommunications Systems, Inc., and the U.S. Telecommunications Association.

I want to thank the Energy and Commerce Committee and its staff for the bipartisan effort to move this bill quickly.

I also want to thank Senator TED STEVENS, Senator BILL NELSON, the Senate sponsor of the bill, and the co-chairs of E-911 Congressional Caucus Representative ANNA ESHOO, Representative JOHN SHIMKUS, Senator HILARY CLINTON.

Working collaboratively with public safety, the deaf and disabled community and the communications industry, we have produced a bill that will greatly improve 911 services in America today and for the future.

I'll close by encouraging my colleagues to vote for this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF MS. MING CHIEN HSU

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and contributions of Ming Chien Hsu upon her retirement following a long career in the maritime industry. During the course of her professional life, Ms. Hsu repeatedly distinguished herself in the fields of transportation and international commerce; as well as in government service and community leadership.

Born in Beijing, China, Ms. Hsu came to the United States in the days following World War II. Settling in Washington, she enrolled in, and graduated Summa Cum Laude from, the School of Government Affairs at George Washington University. Degree in hand, Ms. Hsu moved to New Jersey where she began a career that has been interesting and impressive by any measure.

Coming to the workplace in an era before it was common to see women in executive positions, Ms. Hsu joined the RCA Corporation, where she worked in positions related to marketing and planning before being promoted to Vice President for International Trade. Among her many successes at RCA, Ms. Hsu played a vital role in opening the China market for her company, a success enjoyed years before most companies were even contemplating the possibility of doing business in that country.

The leadership and accomplishments of Ming Hsu in the arena of global commerce not only caught the attention of her superiors at RCA, but also that of New Jersey Governor Timothy Kean, who in 1982 appointed her Director of the New Jersey Department of Commerce Division of International Trade and Special Trade Representative, positions she held for 8 years. In those capacities, she led more than 20 trade missions all over the world, in-

cluding to destinations such as Moscow, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore.

In 1990, Ms. Hsu was appointed by President George H.W. Bush as a Commissioner on the Federal Maritime Commission where she served for almost 10 years under four different Chairmen. During her tenure, the Federal Maritime Commission tackled some of the most challenging issues related to shipping in recent years including the Ocean Shipping Reform Act; discriminatory port practices in Japan; and, market access issues in the People's Republic of China. Her ability to work closely with her fellow Commissioners, irrespective of their political affiliation, earned her the respect of her colleagues and she played a key role in assuring that matters before or affecting the Commission were considered carefully and completely and that the final results were equitable to all parties concerned. Ms. Hsu made many valuable contributions to the Federal Maritime Commission and shipping during what was a critical era for that agency and the industry it oversees.

Though she left the Federal Maritime Commission in 1999, Ms. Hsu has remained actively involved in the shipping world working for the NOL Group the past 10 years. The NOL Group is the Singapore-based parent of one of the most historic shipping lines in the United States, American President Lines, which is celebrating the 160th anniversary of its founding this year. In her capacity as a senior advisor, Ms. Hsu has played a leading role for her company in addressing market access issues, providing guidance on regulatory matters, and serving as a sounding board on a variety of concerns related to trade and ocean transportation.

Beyond her many impressive contributions to the transportation and trade communities, Ms. Hsu is a civic-minded individual who always has been, and continues to be, involved in many philanthropic and service related activities. Earlier in her career, Ms. Hsu served as a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, DACOWITS; a member of the New Jersey Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; the Advisory Committee of the U.S. Holocaust Museum; as a trustee of the Newark Museum; and as an advisor to WNET, Channel 13, in New York.

Her more recent volunteer and service efforts include: being a founding member and serving as a director of the Committee of 100, an organization of leading Chinese-American Citizens; serving as director on the J.T. Tai Foundation; being a sponsor of the Eisenhower Foundation; serving as a trustee of the Angel Island Project; serving as a trustee of the 1990 Institute; serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the Asian/Pacific American Legal Center; being a sponsor of the Hopkins-Nanjing Center; and serving as a member of the Advisory Board of the United States Merchant Marine Academy where she is a perennial presence at graduation, and in fact, she will be at the Academy in June to see the Class of 2008 receive their diplomas and commissions.

I am told by those who know Ms. Hsu best that one of her greatest passions is mentoring others and toward that goal, she has taught college classes; worked to cultivate promising young professionals inside and outside of government; and simply made herself available in general to provide advice and guidance to