



Steuben County Sheriff's Office

206 E. Gale St. • Angola, Indiana 46703

Tim R. Troyer, Sheriff

John K. Gonya, Chief Deputy

Phone: 260-668-1000

Business Office: Ext. 5000

Fax: 260-665-9476

4/6/2011

To: Steuben County Board of Commissioners

RE: Harris Radio systems and the Open Sky network

From: Sheriff Tim Troyer

Since the launching of the open sky radio system here in Steuben County for all emergency services there have been many issues of concern. We have all worked very closely with Steuben County Communications director Cindy Snyder and share in her frustration and concern with the problems. In keeping an open mind of the systems, we have all been very patient as each issue has been addressed and worked on. Yet the problems return and continue to grow.

The final line was crossed with an incident in Steuben County on 4/5/2011 where many officers, fire rescue and EMS were responding to a serious incident involving a stabbed individual along with a suspect at large. The radio system completely failed again, leaving police, fire and EMS unable to communicate at all. When notified of the situation, I immediately advised to the Communications director to return our radio communications to the EDACS systems. As emergency service providers we must be able to communicate together, clearly and without failure. It is critical that whatever system is used, it must work correctly, at all times.

Due to the many incidents of failure, the inability to communicate clearly and the inability to operate multiple officers/agencies properly without failure I am issuing to you a **NO CONFIDENCE** statement into the Harris Radio corporation and the Open Sky Radio systems. I am further requesting that an immediate investigation be launched by you into proper action of obtaining a radio communications system that will provide the level of safety and security to all Steuben County Emergency Services and its citizens. Below are the names and signatures of other emergency services providers that have experienced the issues with this system and are in full agree of the content of this letter.

We are all willing to work aggressively with you in obtaining a radio communications system that works properly. Failing to do so will result in the serious injury or death of an emergency service worker or a citizen of Steuben County, and this is not acceptable.

Sincerely,

Tim R. Troyer
Sheriff

Stuart Hamblen
Angola Police Chief

Mike Meek

Angola Fire Chief

Vicky Meek

EMS Director

Bill Brown

EMA Director

Cindy Snyder
Communications Director

Eric Hufnagle

Fremont Fire Chief

Joe Patterson

Fremont Marshal

Scott Barnhart

Ashley Marshal

Jeremy Warner

Hamilton Marshal