



February 10, 2023

Honorable David P. Hinkins, Chair
Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Standing Committee
Utah State Legislature

Re: HB 266 Support with Clarifying Amendment

Dear Chair Hinkins and Committee Members:

On behalf of CTIA, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I write to wholeheartedly support the use of AMBER Alerts in Utah. CTIA supports the passage of HB 266, with a clarifying amendment to reflect the federal partnership among wireless carriers, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), and local alert originators.

Over the past decade, more than 70,000 Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) have been deployed to inform and protect people in times of crisis, and 123 children have been found thanks to WEA-delivered AMBER Alerts. The wireless industry is proud to be part of this lifesaving system, and we support the evolution of WEAs through the deployment of devices that leverage the next phase of alert technology—WEA 3.0. We also appreciate the efforts of the FCC and FEMA to educate organizations that send WEAs about how they work and how to use the enhanced geo-targeting capabilities of WEA 3.0.

This public-private partnership has been key to the first decade of success of WEAs, and WEAs have become one of the most essential tools in our nation's alert and warning system. We look forward to working together with the FCC, FEMA, and local alert originators to continue this proven success in keeping our communities safe and informed.

Because the AMBER alert system is part of the FEMA WEA system, which is a partnership among FEMA, the FCC and wireless providers to enhance public safety, we respectfully request the follow clarifying amendment to Section 4 of the bill:

- 57 (4) The department may make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
58 Administrative Rulemaking Act, establishing policies and procedures related to law enforcement agency
reporting and compliance with for the operation and
59 maintenance of the Amber Alert System.

The wireless industry stands ready to continue its partnership with FEMA, the FCC, and local originators to enable AMBER Alerts for the residents of Utah.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa V. McCabe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa V. McCabe
Director, State Legislative Affairs