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**NENA Applauds Passage of the IP-Enabled Voice Communications
and Public Safety Act**

Leadership of Senators Burns and Bill Nelson Ensures Passage of Critical 9-1-1 Legislation

Arlington, VA – The United States Senate voted September 14th to include the IP-Enabled Voice Communications and Public Safety Act of 2006 as part of a managers' amendment to the Safe Port Act (HR 4954). "NENA strongly supports the leadership of Senators Burns and Bill Nelson in offering legislation that provides tools to advance access to the 9-1-1 system for all Americans. We also wish to thank Chairman Stevens and Co-Chairman Inouye for working with all parties to reach a compromise enabling this bill to move forward," said NENA President Bill Munn, ENP.

Ensuring that 9-1-1 service is available and effective for all Americans today and in the future as technology advances is a top priority for NENA. There is currently no more important issue than deploying E9-1-1 as quickly as possible for every consumer using VoIP services. The IP-Enabled Voice Communications and Public Safety Act addresses several important issues and provides tools to support the national deployment of E9-1-1 for VoIP. This legislation is based on a bill originally offered by Rep. Bart Gordon who NENA has been pleased to work with on these important issues along with all of the Co-Chairs of the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus.

"NENA remains focused on the need for a rapid deployment of E9-1-1 for VoIP services, the need for liability protection for 9-1-1 telecommunicators, the need to preserve funding levels for PSAPs and the advancement of a modernized 9-1-1 system. This legislation builds on the important action taken by the FCC last year and advances these critical issues. We look forward to continue working with all parties to ensure this language is signed into law," added Munn.

Specifically, the legislation addresses these key issues:

- Confirms state authority to impose and collect 9-1-1 fees from VoIP providers, critical funding needed to operate and maintain 9-1-1 service
- Provides liability parity for PSAPs, VoIP providers and users of VoIP services equivalent to existing liability protections for wireless and wireline services
- Ensures that VoIP providers have access to E9-1-1 infrastructure necessary to complete E9-1-1 deployment
- Requires the National 9-1-1 Implementation and Coordination Office – a joint program of the Commerce and Transportations Departments authorized by Congress in 2004 -- to submit a plan to Congress on the migration towards a modernized IP-Enabled 9-1-1 system