



The County Mayors of BENTON, CARROLL & HENRY COUNTIES TENNESSEE

April 19, 2023

Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Senator from Tennessee
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Bill Hagerty
U.S. Senator from Tennessee
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Mark Green
Congressman – TN 07
Washington, D.C.

Honorable David Kustoff
Congressman – TN 08
Washington, D.C.

JOINT LETTER

Re: NWS Transmitter at Vale, Tennessee (URGENT!)

Honorable Members:

It is our hope that this letter finds you well and blessed. Your service and dedication to your constituents is recognized and greatly appreciated.

It goes without saying that the safety of our citizens is of paramount importance. A large part of working to ensure public safety in our area, is making sure that all residents can stay informed during a severe weather event. We feel compelled to write to you today concerning what we view as a grave and recurring lapse in the National Weather Service's warning system, specifically as it pertains to Carrol, Henry and Benton Counties, along with surrounding areas.

The primary NWS weather alert repeater for our area is located in Carroll County, within the community of Vale. This repeater, a vital resource for many residents, has gone off-line at least 6 times since the beginning of this year. Each time this has occurred, severe storms were moving into our area. This loss of service has repeatedly left a large portion of our people with no warning of imminent hazards. In rural areas, many have no cell phone service, and must rely upon their weather alert radios, which are controlled and alerted by the by the local repeater at Vale. For many, the "back-up" repeater at Waverly, is out of range and/or unreliable.

It is our understanding that the NWS repeater at Vale was installed in the 1970's, and has had many "band-aids" applied in recent years in an effort to maintain its operation.

Letter - NWS Repeater Vale

April 19, 2023

Page 2

We humbly ask that you prioritize the safety of our communities, and vigorously advocate with our federal partners for the installation of a new and efficient weather alert repeater in this location.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or comments on this matter, please feel free to make contact.

Sincerely,



Mark Ward

Benton County Mayor

731.584.6011

Mark.Ward@bentoncountyttn.gov



Joseph Butler

Carroll County Mayor

731.986.1936

jbutler@carroll.tn.org



John Penn Ridgeway

Henry County Mayor

731.642.5212

jpridgeway@henrycountyttn.org