



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

MAR 24 2020

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.  
Secretary of Commerce  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On December 6, 2019, the Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) sent a letter, on behalf of the Executive Branch, to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recommending rejection of the license modification request of Ligado Networks. The Air Force, on behalf of DoD and endorsed by the interagency, has provided additional supplemental information to the Chairman of the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) on expected national security and defense impacts to Global Positioning System (GPS) operations if the proposed license modification request were granted. I request this additional information be transmitted by NTIA to the FCC for inclusion in the public record of the Ligado proceeding (FCC International Bureau Docket Numbers 11-109 and 12-340).

Per 10 U.S.C. 2281, the Secretary of Defense "may not agree to any restriction on the GPS proposed by the head of a department or agency of the United States outside DoD that would adversely affect the military potential of GPS." Approval of the Ligado application would adversely affect the military potential of GPS and the Department of Defense is strongly opposed. After reviewing the existing public record of the Ligado proceeding, I believe the information Air Force has submitted to the IRAC would be of significant value to the FCC in making its decision regarding Ligado's license modification application. I therefore request that you have NTIA communicate this additional information to the FCC expeditiously to be put on the public record.

I have consulted with my Chief Technical Officer and Chief Information Officer and both agree.

Your personal attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel L. Altschuler".

cc:

Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications  
and Information and Administrator, NTIA

