

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
November 24, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

Thank you for your leadership and service to the House of Representatives and the Appropriations Committee. As you consider language to the upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation packages, we write to request you include language that delays implementation of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Order announced on April 20, 2020, granting Ligado's application to deploy a terrestrial nationwide network to provide 5G services. We believe this Order does not sufficiently protect adjacent spectrum band operations—specifically those related to the Global Positioning System (GPS) and satellite communications—from harmful interference that would impact numerous industries, including the precision agriculture industry.

One of the greatest examples of U.S. innovation and resourcefulness is the GPS program. This program demonstrates the tremendous benefits of government investment in research and development. Since the commercialization of GPS technology, we have seen more than \$1 trillion in economic impact, the establishment of numerous businesses, and the creation of countless jobs. Similarly, satellite communications services are transforming the economy by meeting the ever-growing demand for connected services across industries that can leverage mobile and remote assets located beyond the reach of terrestrial-based coverage.

GPS and satellite communications services are critically important to the commercial agriculture, mining, forestry, rural manufacturing industries, and the American Weather Enterprise. In fact, GPS and satellite communications services have become the single most significant technological advancement for American farm equipment in the past two decades. Connected farm machinery that leverages satellite communications networks have revolutionized productivity, enabling near real-time asset management and tracking. According to a 2019 RTI International study, since 1998, GPS adoption in agriculture has yielded more than \$5.8 billion in economic benefits. The study also found that during planting season, if GPS were interrupted, the economic impact to the agriculture sector could amount to losses of \$15 billion due to lower crop yields. Moreover, an earlier study suggested GPS-enabled precision agriculture could save farmers an estimated 10 to 15 percent in operating costs and purchased inputs. This same study estimated the benefits of these technologies to precision agriculture between \$10 and \$17 billion. This FCC decision will jeopardize years of congressionally appropriated investments in satellite-based services that have not only saved millions of dollars but countless lives.

While the FCC Order acknowledges this interference will impact users in the federal government and requires Ligado to upgrade or replace these devices, the Order fails to require Ligado to accept responsibility for the millions of private devices that will be affected. This will force several industries, including agriculture, who rely on these devices to access satellite-based services to suffer from Ligado's operations, initiate burdensome and ill-defined procedures to address this interference, or to pay to replace them.

We must ensure the United States continues to be a leader in 5G deployment and development. However, we believe the Ligado decision will slow the progress of our economy and interfere with the operation of GPS and satellite communications. For these reasons, we urge you to include language in the next appropriations package that delays the implementation of this FCC Order.

Sincerely,



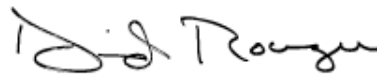
Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



James Comer
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
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Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress