

June 22, 2021

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rounds  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

The undersigned companies and organizations strongly endorse the **Recognizing and Ensuring Taxpayer Access to Infrastructure Necessary for GPS and Satellite Communications Act** or the **“RETAIN GPS and Satellite Communications Act”** introduced today. This legislation would ensure that the costs incurred by the public sector, businesses and consumers as a result of the FCC’s decision to permit Ligado Networks LLC to use spectrum in a way that would cause interference to GPS and satellite communications would be covered by Ligado—the licensee benefiting from the decision.

The FCC’s Ligado Order already recognizes the potential for interference to GPS receivers and requires that, *“Ligado shall expeditiously repair or replace as needed any U.S. Government GPS devices that experience or are likely to experience harmful interference from Ligado’s operations.”* But the Order failed to go far enough in three key ways. *First*, it did not provide an adequate description of the potential costs to federal agencies and thus the American taxpayer. Federal agencies are responsible for ensuring reliable GPS and satellite communications necessary for all manner of safety of life operations. *Second*, while recognizing the potential costs associated with interference to Federal agency owned devices, the FCC order inexplicably fails to require that Ligado also bear the costs of interference to other government and private owners of devices and applications that may be disrupted by Ligado’s proposed operations. *Third*, the Order improperly applies interference limits that are fundamentally insufficient to protect critical satellite communications and navigation signals from unknown millions of Ligado devices operating over wide geographic areas.

Ninety-nine percent of GPS receivers are used in critical applications by non-Federal government users, businesses and consumers. In addition, the Order similarly threatens the satellite communications networks that can enable technologies used to complement and support GPS. The reliability of GPS and satellite communications is necessary for safety of life operations, national security and economic activity; critical communications capabilities; commercial and civil aviation; first responders, 9-1-1 and other public safety operators; military readiness and communications; weather forecasting; the movement of goods on our highways; the marking maritime harbors and channels; farmers planting and harvesting crops; operation of construction and mining equipment—and the list goes on and on.

The RETAIN GPS and Satellite Communications Act acknowledges the harm to GPS and satellite communications end users caused by the Ligado order and ensures the burden of cost

sits squarely where it belongs—on Ligado, rather than our first responders, farmers, pilots, boat owners, surveyors or construction companies. We commend you for recognizing the expense and burden the Ligado order places on federal agencies, American taxpayers, businesses and consumers, and for providing clear and immediate relief to critical stakeholders with this legislation. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)  
Agriculture Retailers Association  
Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l (ALPA)  
Airborne Public Safety Association (APSA)  
Aircraft Electronics Association  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
(AOPA)  
Airlines for America (A4A)  
Airo Drone, LLC  
Alaska Airlines  
Allegiant Air  
Allied Pilots Association  
American Airlines  
American Association of Airport Executives  
American Concrete Pavement Association  
American Concrete Pipe Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Rental Association  
American Road & Transportation Builders  
Association (ARTBA)  
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)  
American Soybean Association  
American Sportfishing Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
(AGC)  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
(AEM)  
Association of Marina Industries  
Atlas Air Worldwide  
Aviation Spectrum Resources Inc. (ASRI)  
Blue Origin

Boat Owners Association of The United States,  
BoatU.S.  
Cargo Airline Association (CAA)  
Center for Sportfishing Policy  
CNH Industrial  
Coastal Conservation Association  
CoBank  
CompTIA Space Enterprise Council  
Crown Consulting Inc.  
Cubic Corporation  
Delta Air Lines  
Eastern Region Helicopter Council (ERHC)  
Equipment Dealers Association  
Esri  
FedEx Corporation  
Frontier Airlines  
General Aviation Manufacturers Association  
(GAMA)  
Hawaii Helicopter Association  
Helicopter Association International (HAI)  
Hellen Systems  
International Air Transport Association (IATA)  
Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association  
Iridium  
L3Harris  
Lockheed Martin  
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas  
National Agricultural Aviation Association  
National Air Carrier Association  
National Air Transportation Association  
(NATA)  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Business Aviation Association  
(NBAA)

National Cotton Council  
National Defense Industrial Association  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Society of Professional Surveyors  
(NSPS)  
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association  
National Utility Contractors Association  
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots  
(NJASAP)  
NEXA Capital Partners LLC  
Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors  
Polar Cargo  
Portland Cement Association  
Regional Airline Association (RAA)  
Resilient Navigation and Timing Foundation  
(RNTFnd)  
Skytrac  
Southwest Airlines  
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association  
Spirit Airlines  
Subsurface Utility Engineering Association  
Sun Country Airlines  
The Vertical Flight Society  
Trimble  
U.S. Contract Tower Association  
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization  
USA Rice