

## **What They Are Saying About the RETAIN GPS and Satellite Communications Act (S. 2166)**

“Our family farms have invested often hundreds of thousands of dollars in technologies to not only assure their businesses grow and stay competitive, but also to make the best decisions for our land and environment. A great example of this technology is a sprayer reliant on GPS that prevents the operator from inadvertently overapplying crop protection chemicals—or a row planter that, without GPS guidance, will simply shut down, preventing crops from being seeded during the critical planting window. Modern, sustainable agriculture relies on GPS, and the cost and burden of disruption are high. We appreciate Senator Inhofe’s leadership on this issue and this legislation that will broadly protect essential industries—including farming—from unfair and costly GPS interference.” - Kevin Scott, American Soybean Association (ASA) president and soy grower from South Dakota

“The Air Line Pilots Association, Int’l (ALPA) is grateful for Sen. Inhofe’s leadership to ensure that the private sector is economically protected from the harm to GPS and satellite communications from Ligado’s system. On each and every flight, airline pilots rely on GPS to make sure that our skies remain the safest in the world, and we rely on satellite communications for trans-oceanic communications with air traffic control. Any potential threat to these systems is simply unacceptable” - Capt. Joe DePete, president, Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA)

“Airlines for America (A4A) thanks Sen. Inhofe for his leadership and fully supports the “RETAIN for GPS and Satellite Communications Act” introduced today. The FCC’s order ignored testing protocols intended to protect critical users and did not adequately address the impacts to commercial aviation. This legislation would ensure that those important concerns are addressed.” - Airlines for America (A4A)

“The Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) applauds Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) for his steadfast leadership in re-introducing the RETAIN Act, an important piece of legislation to the equipment manufacturing industry. The FCC’s order granting Ligado Network’s use of the L-band spectrum threatens the very productivity of our nation’s farmers and the safety of our construction job sites. The GPS and satellite communication devices that our industry’s customers rely on to feed, power, and build the world continue to be at risk, and the RETAIN Act will help alleviate the costly burden that Ligado’s interference will cause. It ensures that American taxpayers, businesses, consumers, and the 2.8 million men and women of the equipment manufacturing industry will not have to shoulder the costs and complications that this order carries.” – Dennis Slater, President, Association of Equipment Manufacturers

“The FCC is requiring Ligado to pay damages to Federal equipment, so the company should also pay damages to equipment owned by ordinary Americans. With Ligado 5G transmitters overwhelming GPS signals, pipeline maintenance and systems operations would be affected. Plus, private pilots might find that navigation technology does not operate, joggers might find that their health trackers ceased to work, and firefighters might not be able to get to their destinations. “ - Diana Furchtgott-Roth, George Washington University economics professor

“Helicopters conduct many critical missions, including medevac, firefighting, aerial application, and heavy lift. These and many other helicopter industry operations occur predominately in low-altitude environments where increased proximity to flight obstructions and decreased line of sight is expected. To mitigate these risks, we rely heavily on the effectiveness of satellite communications and GPS navigation systems. Because of its effects on these systems, the Ligado decision will jeopardize aviation safety. We applaud Senator Inhofe and his leadership in introducing the RETAIN ACT to address the cost impact of the Ligado Order. The bill provides a measure of financial protection to HAI members who would otherwise bear the burden of whatever steps federal agencies and state governments will need to take to ensure GPS and satellite communications continue to be reliable.” - James Viola, President and CEO of Helicopter Association International (HAI)

“GPS enables vital aircraft navigation and safety-related functions. This legislation will ensure that Ligado will cover any costs incurred to guarantee that these safety-critical functions are not degraded or disabled by interference from Ligado’s network.”

Doug Lavin, Vice President Member and External Relations North America, International Air Transport Association (IATA)

“Despite decades of obfuscation by Lightsquared and Ligado, one fact remains: their plans to enrich their shareholders do little for 5G progress or US competitiveness, but will instead impact hundreds of private sector companies that keep people safe, provide innovative services that make consumers' lives better and serves as the backbone of the United States economic engine. A diverse coalition of industries, bipartisan congressional leaders and United States federal agencies are unified that Ligado’s plan is clearly an unacceptable risk that threatens our nation’s critical satellite services infrastructure. Iridium proudly stands with Congressional leaders, the commercial and cargo aviation industry, the farm sector, public safety community, weather reporting industry and more in supporting Senator Inhofe’s RETAIN Act and calling for the reversal of this damaging order. We thank the Senator for his leadership and look forward to supporting Congress to pass this important bill.” - Matt Desch, CEO, Iridium Communications, Inc.

“NATA applauds Senator Inhofe’s RETAIN Act – common sense legislation that would help protect the countless people who rely upon aviation for essential emergency, transportation, agriculture, security, and cargo services from risks to GPS and SATCOM communications access. This bill represents a positive move toward safeguarding the reliability and efficiency of our national air system while maintaining fairness for all spectrum users,” stated NATA Vice President of Regulatory Affairs John McGraw.

“GPS is a critical technology and capability in peacetime and in times of conflict that saves lives and minimizes destruction. Any degradation of that capability must be quickly and fully rectified.” - Gen Hawk Carlisle, President & CEO of National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)

"The productivity and precision benefits GPS provides professional surveyors are boundless. Virtually all surveyors use it for a growing number of applications that improve the national infrastructure every day. NSPS commends Senator Inhofe and his fellow cosponsors for their leadership introducing the RETAIN GPS & SatCom Act which is vitally important legislation for the profession." - Curtis W. Sumner, PLS, Executive Director, National Society of Professional Surveyors

"Global Positioning Systems (GPS) provide critical geospatial data for Surveyors across the State of Oklahoma as well as the country. This data is the underlying foundation of many aspects of our country's infrastructure. Data for things such as roads, highways and bridges as well as flood maps and private property rights of Americans. The Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors thanks Senator Inhofe and offers its full support for his work and sponsorship of the RETAIN GPS & SatCom Act which is critical to Surveyors in continuing to offer much needed infrastructure support." - Burk Cornelius, PLS, Executive Director, Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors

"For the professionals in surveying, mapping and subsurface utility engineering, interference with GPS is a matter of public health, safety, and welfare. Important projects, such as infrastructure, energy, utilities, transportation, natural resources, environmental protection, and property rights depend on accurate and accessible GPS signals. This legislation is critical to protecting the integrity of GPS." - John M. Palatiello, Partner, Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies, on behalf of the Subsurface Utility Engineering Association, and the U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization