

June 29, 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 Jack Reed
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)	Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
Agriculture Retailers Association	Association of American Geographers (AAG)
Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l (ALPA)	Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Airborne Public Safety Association (APSA)	Association of Marina Industries
Aircraft Electronics Association	Atlas Air Worldwide
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)	Aviation Spectrum Resources Inc. (ASRI)
Aireon, LLC	Blue Origin
Airlines for America (A4A)	Boat Owners Association of The United States, BoatU.S.
Airo Drone, LLC	Cargo Airline Association (CAA)
Alaska Airlines	Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CAGIS)
Allegiant Air	Center for Sportfishing Policy
Allied Pilots Association	CNH Industrial
American Airlines	Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations (CAPA)
American Association for Geodetic Surveying (AAGS)	Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO)
American Association of Airport Executives	Coastal Conservation Association
American Bus Association	CoBank
American Concrete Pavement Association	CompTIA Space Enterprise Council
American Concrete Pipe Association	Crown Consulting Inc.
American Council of Engineering Companies	Cubic Corporation
American Farm Bureau Federation	Delta Air Lines
American Rental Association	Eastern Region Helicopter Council (ERHC)
American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)	Equipment Dealers Association
American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)	Esri
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)	FedEx Corporation
American Soybean Association	Frontier Airlines
American Sportsfishing Association	General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA)
American Trucking Associations	
Associated Equipment Distributors	

GIS Certification Institute (GISCI)
Hawaii Helicopter Association
Helicopter Association International (HAI)
Hellen Systems
Intelligent Transportation Society of America
International Air Transport Association (IATA)
International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)
Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association
Iridium
L3Harris
Lockheed Martin
Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Maxar
MidAmerica GIS Consortium (MAGIC)
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 Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)
National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)
National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association
National Utility Contractors Association
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots (NJASAP)
NEXA Capital Partners LLC
Oklahoma Defense Industry Association
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
United Airlines
United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)
University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS)
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)
USA Rice