

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 31, 2015

The Honorable Robert O. Work  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Co-Chair, National Executive Committee  
for Space-Based PNT

The Honorable Victor Mendez  
Deputy Secretary of Transportation  
Co-Chair, National Executive Committee  
for Space-Based PNT

Dear Chairmen Work and Mendez,

Thank you for your leadership on the National Executive Committee for Space-Based Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT), the joint civil and military body responsible for coordinating GPS-related matters to ensure the system addresses national priorities and military requirements. As you know, there is currently no backup system to meet these needs in the event of GPS failure. We urge the Administration to immediately address the issue of GPS vulnerability by establishing a national backup capability coordinated by a single federal executive agent.

As Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Durkovitch, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Zukunft, and other senior administration officials have confirmed, GPS is a single point of failure for critical infrastructure. To some degree, every technology relies on the GPS signal, yet this signal remains vulnerable to jamming, spoofing, degradation, and corruption. This has been a public concern for over fifteen years, and for over a decade, we have had an unfilled Presidential mandate to obtain a backup.

Enhanced Loran, or eLoran, has been identified as a promising solution. In 2009, the Institute for Defense Analysis issued a report from a group of distinguished scientists and engineers that said, "eLoran is the only cost-effective backup for national needs; it is completely interoperable with and independent of GPS, with different propagation and failure mechanisms, plus significantly superior robustness to radio frequency interference and jamming. It is a seamless backup, and its use will deter threats to US national and economic security." In 2010, the Administration's National PNT Advisory Board examined the issue of GPS disruption and commanded, "Fund a National back-up capability to insure continuity of PNT Operations. We strongly recommend that the previously announced decision [to deploy eLoran as the primary Alternate PNT] should be reconfirmed and quickly implemented."

We understand from press reports that the response to the Department of Transportation's Request for Comment on this issue was overwhelmingly in favor of an eLoran backup system. We have also heard that a "Tiger Team" has been examining this issue through the past year. We request access to the resulting report and findings as soon as possible, and we urge you to take action now. Private and commercial entities are poised to assist, and a backup could be implemented at no cost to the government through a Cooperative Agreement with a for-profit or non-profit entity to allow use of idle facilities and equipment. Failing to act will place our nation

at further risk and will squander the current momentum by diverting government and private experts to other endeavors.

We look forward to hearing from you on the Administration's plan for action, and we offer our partnership in making this a reality.

Sincerely,



---

John Garamendi, CA-03



---

Bill Shuster, PA-09



---

Peter A. DeFazio, OR-04



---

Frank A. LoBiondo, NJ-02



---

Walter B. Jones, NC-03