

DEC 08 2015

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your August 31, 2015, letter regarding the importance of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and the need for a complementary positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) capability for the nation.

We share your concerns regarding the importance of GPS to our critical infrastructure and security requirements. Seeking to implement the guidance from National Security Presidential Directive 39, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Transportation established an interagency process in 2014 to assess those information sources that are complementary to GPS and that could be used to ensure the continuity of PNT services to critical infrastructure. Through this interagency process, the National Space-Based PNT Executive Committee (EXCOM) reviewed several potential solutions and assessed that an enhanced Loran (eLoran) network could be a viable nationwide complementary capability for GPS applications in U.S. critical infrastructure. The EXCOM also assessed that a timing-focused network could be implemented in the near term with properly scoped specifications, costs, and cost sharing arrangements. As you stated, there may be opportunities to work with private and commercial entities to initiate these complementary capabilities.

The EXCOM met on September 3, 2015, and agreed to a two-fold strategy for activities to explore a national complementary capability to GPS: pursue potential near-term opportunities to leverage public and private sector capabilities and resources to support a timing-focused eLoran network, while also documenting the requirements for a more comprehensive complementary PNT capability for the nation's critical infrastructure.

The EXCOM acknowledges the challenges associated with this undertaking, especially given the fact that no government-wide set of requirements has been established for such a complementary capability. However, sufficient data exists from previous studies to produce initial cost estimates and basic system specifications to determine the appropriate scope of the effort. We are building on these data and estimates to develop a more detailed approach for an initial timing-focused eLoran capability. This initial timing network could provide a near-term solution while we continue our efforts to prescribe a complete set of requirements necessary to support a full complementary PNT capability for the nation.

We look forward to working with you as we continue our efforts to provide a complementary PNT capability for U.S. critical infrastructure.

We have sent a similar response to each cosigner of your letter.

Sincerely,



Victor M. Mendez
Deputy Secretary of Transportation
Co-Chair, National Executive Committee
for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation,
and Timing



Robert O. Work
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Co-Chair, National Executive Committee
for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation,
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