

Corporate Members



Senator Bill Nelson
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

RNT Foundation
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11 October 2016

Dear Senator Nelson;

On behalf of our many individual and corporate members, we urge you to actively support prompt consideration of HR 5978 by the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, and its passage by the Senate before the year is out.

Passage of HR 5978 will help protect American telecommunications and computer networks, financial systems, electrical power distribution and every form of transportation. By providing for a complementary and backup system for the Global Positioning System (GPS) it will eliminate what the Department of Homeland Security has called "...a single point of failure for our nation's critical infrastructure."

The Bush and Obama administrations both recognized that America's growing reliance on GPS was dangerous for the nation. Both decided that a complementary and backup system was needed, and both determined that a relatively inexpensive wireless eLoran network was the best option. Unfortunately, in spite of many low and no-cost-to-the-government options that are available, no agency has taken the responsibility to lead this effort since it was formally mandated in 2004.

HR 5978 solves this problem by designating the US Coast Guard as the federal lead. Coast Guard is the right agency for this as it already owns the infrastructure upon which the new system will be built, and has expertise in eLoran and similar technologies. By partnering with the private sector, Coast Guard will be able to address a substantial part of America's vulnerability to GPS disruption within a year.

Recent media reports, such as the enclosed article from *The Atlantic*, have reflected the ease and increased frequency with which GPS signals are being disrupted by criminals, terrorists, and adversary nations. While we have not had a major incident in the homeland, our military forces overseas are constantly hobbled by GPS jamming.

At home the FBI reports that criminals use jammers to aid in theft of high value cargo, and Customs and Border Protection has said that navigation of their drones

has been “spoofed” by drug cartels at the border. When combined with the myriad of minor disruptions to cell phone calls and data networks each day because of individuals with illegal (but easy to obtain and use) “Personal Privacy Devices,” the cumulative negative impact to our economy is estimated to be in the billions of dollars per year.

The volunteers and members of our scientific and educational charity include a former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, former Coast Guard Commandant, the former director for maritime navigation in the US, and senior members of the defense and IT industries. We would be happy to provide you or your staff more information on this issue, including in-person meetings in your offices.

The government decided to address this problem in 2008 with an eLoran system and has reaffirmed that decision several times. Yet eight years later we have failed to act and America is at increasingly grave risk. We need your help to eliminate this immense danger to America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dana Goward', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dana Goward

RNT Foundation, President

RNTFnd.org

The RNT Foundation is a 501(c)3 Scientific and Educational Charity registered in Virginia.