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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

www.posey.house.gov
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2150 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3671
FAX: (202) 225-3516
MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE:
2725 JUDGE FRAN JAMESON WAY, BLDG. C
MELBOURNE, FL 32940
(321) 632-1776
FAX: (321) 639-8595
DISTRICT OFFICE:
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ADMIN. BLDG. A
(772) 226-1701
DISTRICT OFFICE:
BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES
IN TITUSVILLE
(321) 383-6090

March 12, 2018

Chairman Ajit Pai
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: IB Docket No. 98-96 – 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review – Review of Accounts of Settlement in the Maritime Mobile and Maritime-Satellite Radio Services and Withdrawal of the Commission as an Accounting Authority in the Maritime Mobile and Maritime-Satellite Radio Services (“2016 Accounting Authority Second FNPRM”)

Dear Chairman Pai and FCC Commissioners:

I am writing to you regarding my August 9, 2017, correspondence in the above-captioned docket. I continue to monitor the docket in this proceeding and would like to request an update on what progress has been made by the Commission, to date. While I see no recent action in the docket, other than COMSAT's September 2017 *ex parte* notice, I am hopeful that the Commission is close to rendering a final determination that takes into account the comments that have been made on the record.

I also want to reiterate the concerns I raised in my previous correspondence. Namely, I continue to be concerned that over-reliance on an outreach effort to migrate current users to a new accounting authority will be costly, time consuming, and likely to yield mixed results. It is my understanding that sole reliance on an outreach campaign could result in unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer dollars toward an effort which poses risks to maritime vessels.

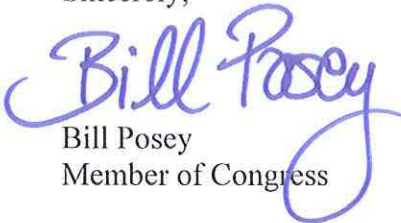
Given these issues, it appears to me that the common-sense solution is for the Commission to consider simply assigning its US01 designation to COMSAT, INC., the only party on the record that has expressed the willingness and documented ability to serve as the replacement default accounting authority. I understand that there is no evidence in the record of this proceeding that any other entity has expressed an interest in undertaking this role. Further, there is no indication in the docket of any objection being made to COMSAT's stated desire to assume this role.

As I stated in my previous correspondence, ensuring maritime safety is a significant concern for myself and my constituency, as is ensuring that this government take affirmative steps to avoid the unnecessary expenditure of additional taxpayer money. The path forward seems clear. I ask that you give full and fair consideration to appointing COMSAT as the default authority so that the Commission can quickly and easily close this docket and address the concerns raised by each party that submitted comments in this proceeding.

I would like to invite you to meet with me in my office to discuss this matter.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Cc: Rachael Bender
Erin McGrath
Dana Shaffer