



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

732

September 30, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write regarding Ligado Network's application to repurpose mid-band spectrum for a 5G network. Approving their application would have serious negative impacts on access to reliable, complete, and low-latency geostationary satellite data that is critical to weather forecasting. I urge you not to approve their application.

The National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Advisory Board unanimously disapproved of Ligado's proposal because studies show Ligado's proposed 5G terrestrial network would interfere with Global Positioning Service (GPS) Spectrum. While interference sounds mild in practice, it will in fact lead to irrecoverable loss of satellite data.

Data provided through GPS Spectrum is essential for high productivity applications used in agriculture, robotics, machine control, and weather probes. For the latter, direct transmissions from satellites to the ground is our fastest and most reliable way to provide severe weather information to end users in the private and public sector, such as the National Weather Service, the Weather Company, Accuweather, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It is especially critical that the GPS spectrum used to receive weather satellite data is free of interference in light of severe weather and natural disasters occurring across the country, such as Hurricane Dorian, wildfires in California, and severe flooding in the Midwest.

I urge you not to approve this application, and to ensure mid-band spectrum remains free of interference. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Pocan', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress