April 25, 2022

The Honorable Joseph Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

In the two years following the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC's") adoption of the *Ligado Order*,[1] unprecedented opposition across the vast federal and commercial user base of Global Positioning System ("GPS"), satellite communications, and weather forecasting services has laid bare the fundamental harm of Ligado's proposed terrestrial operations and the deficiencies in the *Order* itself. Following the second anniversary, as eight petitions for reconsideration of the *Order* remain pending,[2] we write to urge you to work together with the FCC to stay and ultimately set aside the *Order*.

Staying the *Order* is necessitated by the clear bipartisan will of Congress. In consecutive years *after* the adoption of the *Order*, Congress mandated an independent technical review to further assess the harmful interference that would be caused by Ligado's proposed network and required the Department of Defense to brief federal representatives across the government "at the highest level of classification" on the potential for widespread harm from Ligado's proposed terrestrial operations.[3] On this basis alone, the FCC should stay the *Order* to adequately consider the material new information that will be uncovered as a result of these ongoing Congressionally-mandated processes.

The FCC must also stay the *Order* to address the imminent harm implicated by Ligado's recent announcement that it intends to deploy as soon as September 30, 2022[4]—well before it appears the FCC may address the petitions for reconsideration—and in light of the full record before the agency. The record convincingly demonstrates that the *Order* is legally and factually deficient, and the potential for harm grows closer on a daily basis, but the FCC may not have the additional information regarding the full extent of harmful interference in advance of Ligado's planned launch.

The *Order* threatens the critical GPS, satellite communications, and weather forecasting services relied on

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[1] Ligado Amendment to License Modification Authorizations, Order and Authorization, 35 FCC Rcd 3772 (2020) ("*Order*").

[2] More than twenty parties supported reconsideration of the *Order*. These petitions, eight in total, remain pending before the FCC. *See* Petitions for Reconsideration of the National Telecommunication and Information Administration; Air Line Pilots Association, International; the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the Association of Equipment Manufacturers; the Joint Aviation Petitioners; Iridium Communications Inc., Flyht Aerospace Solutions Ltd., Aireon LLC, and Skytrac Systems Ltd; Lockheed Martin Corporation; Trimble Inc.; and the Resilient Navigation and Timing Foundation, IB Docket Nos. 11-109 and 12-340 (all filed May 22, 2020). The ten "Joint Aviation Petitioners" consist of the Aerospace Industries Association, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Airlines for America, the Aviation Spectrum Resources, Inc., the Cargo Airline Association, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, the Helicopter Association International, the International Air Transport Association, the National Air Transportation Association, and the National Business Aviation Association.

[3] William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act ("NDAA") for Fiscal Year 2021, Pub. L. 116-283, 134 Stat. 4074 § 1663; NDAA for Fiscal Year 2022, Pub. L. 117-81, 135 Stat. 1541 § 1613.

[4] *See* Quarterly Report of Ligado Networks, LLC, Letter from Valerie Green, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, Ligado Networks, LLC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC (Mar. 31, 2022).

by millions of users every day and has faced unified and unprecedented opposition from the federal government, including fourteen federal agencies and departments.[5] We therefore urge you to work with the FCC to address the imminent—but preventable—harm from Ligado's proposed terrestrial network by staying the *Order* pending resolution of the petitions for reconsideration.

Sincerely,

AccuWeather, Inc.
Agricultural Retailers Association
Aircraft Electronics Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Air Line Pilots Association
Airlines for America (A4A)
ALERT Users Group
Allied Pilots Association (APA)
American Association of Airport Executives
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Geophysical Union (AGU)
American Meteorological Society (AMS)
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Soybean Association
American Sportfishing Association
American Trucking Associations
American Weather and Climate Industry Association (AWCIA)
Arizona Agricultural Aviation Association
Arkansas Agricultural Aviation Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Aviation Spectrum Resources (ASRI)
BoatU.S.
California Agricultural Aircraft Association
Cargo Airline Association
CNH Industrial
Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations
CoBank
Colorado Agricultural Aviation Association
Cubic Corporation
CompTIA Space Enterprise Council
Equipment Dealers Association
Florida Agricultural Aviation Association
Frontier Airlines
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
GEOOptics, Inc.
Helicopter Association International
Idaho Agricultural Aviation Association
Illinois Agricultural Aviation Association
Indiana Agricultural Aviation Association
International Air Transport Association
Iowa Agricultural Aviation Association
Iridium
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Louisiana Agricultural Aviation Association
Marine Retailers Association
Michigan Agricultural Aviation Association
Microcom Environmental
Minnesota Agricultural Aircraft Association
Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association
Narayan Strategy
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Air Carrier Association (NACA)
National Business Aviation Association (NBAA)
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)
National Weather Association (NWA)
Nebraska Aviation Trades Association
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots (NJASAP)
New Mexico Agricultural Aviation Association
North Carolina Agricultural Aviation Association
North Dakota Agricultural Aviation Association
Northeast Agricultural Aviation Association
Ohio Agricultural Aviation Association
Oklahoma Agricultural Aviation Association
Oregon Agricultural Aviation Association
Pacific Northwest Aerial Applicators Alliance
PlanetiQ

[5] *See* Memorandum from Thu Luu, Executive Agent for GPS, Department of the Air Force, to IRAC Chairman (Feb. 14, 2020).

Regional Airline Association
Resilient Navigation & Timing Foundation
Satelles
South Dakota Aviation Association
Southeast Aero Cultural Fair
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association (SWAPA)
Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Subsurface Utility Engineering Association (SUEA)
Tennessee Agricultural Aviation Association
Texas Agricultural Aviation Association
The Semaphore Group
Trimble
UNAVCO
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)
USA Rice
U.S. Contract Tower Association
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization (U.S. GEO)
Vertical Flight Society
Wisconsin Agricultural Aviation Association