

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of Congress,

We are writing to urge your support for a backup capability to Global Positioning System (GPS) based on recommendations the Department of Transportation (DOT) has made in its recent report to Congress in providing position, navigation and timing (PNT) capabilities for our nation's critical infrastructure. This requirement is extremely important to the economic and national security of the United States due to the widespread reliance on GPS for precise timing and location data and the growing threats to GPS. GPS is susceptible to inadvertent disruptions and deliberate attacks (e.g: cyberattacks, state and non-state attacks), which could impair or incapacitate communication systems, transportation networks, energy production and distribution platforms, financial services, and other types of critical infrastructure in the country.

As you may be aware, the DOT, in response to a requirement in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, recently concluded a comprehensive technical demonstration and evaluation of various Alternate PNT technologies and recommended support for "*LF and UHF terrestrial, L-Band satellite broadcasts for PNT functions with supporting fiber option time services to transmitter/control segments.*" ([Click to view](#) the January 2021 Report.) We fully endorse this multi-technology recommendation by the Executive Branch and urge Congress to support DOT, DHS and other federal agencies in implementing this recommendation by providing the necessary funds and other appropriate policy tools as required to achieve this goal. Further, we believe now is the time for DOT to provide for a GPS back-up capability for critical infrastructure and believe that this report should guide the agency and Congress (including

any legislative actions) in implementing this multi-technology approach based on the findings of the DOT report.

As we work to create the workforce of the future along with investing in 5G technologies, automated and clean energy vehicles and drones, Emergency 911 (E911), and resilient electric grids, they all currently rely on PNT capabilities provided by GPS. For many of these technologies GPS represents a single point of failure. Therefore, it is critical we secure these investments on the backs of a resilient PNT infrastructure as recommended by the DOT.

The industry and non-profits alike are ready and willing to work with Congress and DOT to achieve this important national security goal. Together, we will develop a resilient infrastructure for critical U.S. industries to successfully manage the challenges of the 21st century that will help usher in the modern infrastructure of the future.

Sincerely,



Ganesh Pattabiraman
CEO, NextNav



Charles A. Schue
CEO, UrsaNav



Dr. Michael O'Connor
CEO, Satelles



Daniel Olmes
President, Hellen
Systems



Monty Johnson
CEO, OPNT B.V.



Dr. Jean-Yves
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CEO, Orolia



Ganesh Moorthy,
CEO, Microchip



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