



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

June 22, 2021

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

Dear Senator Inhofe:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for efforts by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on behalf of the Executive Branch to oppose the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) approval last year of Ligado Network LLC's license modification applications for ancillary terrestrial service.

I write to assure you that there has been no change in the Department of Commerce's or NTIA's opposition to the FCC's Ligado Order. NTIA will continue its efforts on behalf of the Executive Branch to oppose it, including continuing to actively pursue its Petition for Reconsideration, which remains pending before the FCC. Congress – in the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021 NDAA) – acted “in a bipartisan manner in its opposition to [the FCC's] decision.” The FY 2021 NDAA directs the Department of Defense to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences to conduct an independent technical review of the Ligado Order and submit a report to the Armed Services Committee this year. NTIA stands ready to support the Department of Defense with this review.

As you may be aware, President Biden has advised the heads of all Executive Departments and Agencies to make evidence-based policy decisions guided by the best available science and data. You can be confident that I am committed to President Biden's guidance and will adhere to it in addressing this particular matter.

I appreciate your viewpoint and look forward to working with you on this and other important matters. Should you have any questions, please contact Christopher Day, Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at 202-230-0470 or cday@doc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gina Raimondo".

Gina M. Raimondo