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May 7, 2021

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chair  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Chair  
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

Re: Urgent Need for Alternative Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Systems Funding

Dear Members of Congress:

The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS), on behalf of its SYNC Committee (SYNC), is writing to explain the urgent need for funding the deployment and adoption of Alternative Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) Systems in U.S. critical infrastructure, including the U.S. telecom industry.

ATIS is a leading developer of standards and other technical deliverables for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Services companies. ATIS develops standards on a broad range of important issues, including 5G and the Internet of Things (IoT). Industry subject matter experts work collaboratively in ATIS' open industry committees, such as SYNC. ATIS SYNC develops and recommends standards and prepares technical reports related to telecommunications network synchronization interfaces.

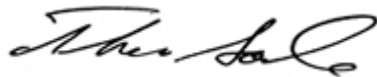
As has been documented by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), many critical infrastructure industries, including First Responders and U.S. Government entities, depend upon GPS for precision timing from fixed locations and to support other systems/functions, including E9-1-1 triangulation and Assisted GPS (AGPS) that are used to find the location of wireless handsets. Critical infrastructure networks are susceptible to malicious and dangerous interruption to the GPS PNT delivery system because of vulnerabilities that are well known and have been widely publicized. Numerous evaluations by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DoT), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), and civilian entities have proven these vulnerabilities exist, and have suggested technical solutions. Most recently, the DoT concluded a demonstration of eleven (11) candidate PNT technologies and submitted its report to Congress.

ATIS SYNC agrees with the findings in the DoT report that there are suitable, mature, and commercially available technologies to backup or complement the timing services provided by GPS. ATIS SYNC therefore urges Congress and the U.S. Government to take the next steps by acknowledging that the U.S. critical infrastructure sectors are at risk and by providing funding for the deployment and adoption of resilient alternative PNT in the U.S. ATIS SYNC supports the letter to Congress sent on March 15, 2021, by companies in the PNT industry, calling for government action to bolster the resilience and security of GPS.

The role of government in protecting its citizens suggests an imperative to safeguard the capabilities of critical infrastructure industries by facilitating resilient PNT.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Thomas Goode  
ATIS General Counsel

cc: Lee Cosart, ATIS SYNC Chair, [lee.cosart@microchip.com](mailto:lee.cosart@microchip.com)  
Cristina Seibert, ATIS SYNC Vice Chair [cseibert@nextnav.com](mailto:cseibert@nextnav.com)  
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