GPS Coalition Member Statements

COPS

An early adopter and innovator of GPS technology, Professional Surveyors rely upon the faintest portion of the broadcast spectrum, the carrier signal. For this reason, and because of how critical positioning systems are to modern spatial data management, any encroachment upon the allocated radio spectrum represents a serious threat to the profession. Surveyors and GIS professionals support planning, design, construction, and operation of our nation's built environment. Land Surveyors are charged with stewardship of our nation's real property rights. These responsibilities demand accurate and reliable spatial positioning technology free of the risks from outside intrusion.

GAMA

"The reallocation of L-band spectrum from satellite to terrestrial service creates harmful interference for Global Position System (GPS) users. General aviation today relies on GPS for the safety of navigation with over 150,000 aircraft equipped. The deployment of the FAA's NextGen program moves the National Airspace System even further from a ground infrastructure to a GPS-based system for navigation and surveillance. Any harm to the GPS signal will have a detrimental impact on this multi-billion dollar Federal investment in aviation infrastructure."

AEM

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) is the U.S.-based international trade group serving the off-road equipment manufacturing industry. Our members number over 800 companies that manufacture equipment, products and services used worldwide in the agriculture, construction, forestry, mining and utility fields. The use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) is increasingly used to enhance the production and efficiency of off road equipment. Any interference or disruption to the delivery of this technology would significantly jeopardize the safe operation and efficiency of off road equipment**.**

AOPA

General aviation pilots and aircraft owners were among the earliest and most enthusiastic adopters of GPS technology. In addition to simplifying navigation, the technology has allowed thousands of America's community airports to become all-weather airports, significantly enhancing safety for pilots and utility for communities. And even today, years before NextGen is fully implemented, it helps reduce congestion by allowing more direct air traffic routing. Loss of GPS utility could reduce safety by forcing those airports to revert to fair-weather-only and increase air traffic congestion by reducing navigation options.

Caterpillar

"GPS is quickly becoming mission critical capability for Caterpillar customers who buy our machines and engines. GPS enables products such as AccuGrade which help customers accurately and efficiently manage large construction projects, ensuring work is completed with minimal carbon footprint. GPS enables Caterpillar dealers to monitor and quickly locate machines and engines that are not operating correctly or efficiently, ensuring Caterpillar products perform their mission reliably while maintaining compliance to stringent emissions regulations."

NAM

The member companies of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) -- the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states -- increasingly rely on an unrestricted Global Positioning System (GPS) for a variety of applications and functions essential to safety and competitiveness. Manufacturers, in conjunction with wholesale and retail locations, use GPS technology to support both parts and whole goods inventory tracking with increasing frequency. This drives efficiency, timeliness of delivery and transportation cost control, all of which lead to better asset management and increased customer satisfaction. GPS technology also is essential to ensuring accurate and timely delivery of inputs through the manufacturing supply chain. Consequently, manufacturers want to ensure that any reallocation of L-band spectrum does not pose harmful interference to GPS receivers or the creation of an electromagnetic environment detrimental to GPS services and users.

AED

Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) is an international trade association representing companies involved in the distribution, rental and support of equipment used in construction, mining, forestry, power generation, agriculture and industrial applications. Among other things, AED members and their customers GPS systems to help ensure the security and operational efficiency of their equipment fleets.

ARSA

The Aeronautical Repair Station Association is an international trade association based in Alexandria, Virginia that represents aviation maintenance and manufacturing companies. ARSA is concerned about the potential impact of the recent FCC decisions on aircraft operations that rely on GPS.

ITSA

The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) is the nation’s leading transportation technology association, representing over 400 member organizations including private companies and

industry leaders, government agencies at all levels, universities, and research institutions. "Many of the latest advances in traveler information – knowing when your route is congested, when the next bus or train will arrive, and getting turn-by-turn directions – rely on GPS signals. In addition, GPS data is vital for locating and responding quickly to roadway emergencies, improving vehicle collision avoidance capabilities, and enabling transportation agencies to monitor and improve the performance of the transportation network. Any GPS disruption or interference is a threat to these and other transportation innovations which keep people and goods moving safely and efficiently, and are key to our nation's economic future."

IATA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) represents some 230 airlines, comprising 93 percent of scheduled international air traffic. IATA is particularly concerned about the implications the LightSquared application raises for GPS as it relates to air navigation in the U.S., where more than 75 of our carriers fly on a regularly scheduled basis. The United States needs to make the investments necessary to modernize its air traffic system in order to handle the expected growth in air travel in the coming decades. The basis for the NextGen air traffic system is the availability of satellite based navigation. Any threat to that satellite navigation capability cannot be tolerated.

NBAA

Since 1947 NBAA has represented business aircraft operators in the US and is supported by 8000 entities operating 11000, primarily turbine powered aircraft. These aircraft, flown by professional air crew, are used in support of their owners commercial pursuits from which the US economy demonstrably benefits. GPS (GNSS) is of vital importance to these operations in that they operate from at least 1000 airfields in the US not supported by the airlines and frequently the only instrument approaches available are those based navigation guidance provided solely by GPS (and in many cases WAAS). Interference with the information provided to aircraft by GPS is more than in inconvenience, it is critical to the safe completion of the flight.

ATA

GPS integrity is critical to the safe and reliable operation of the nation's air transportation system, and there has been significant investment by the U.S. government and airlines to dramatically upgrade the aviation infrastructure for the benefit and safety of the traveling public. Realization of these benefits is placed at great risk by interference caused by the proposed ground-based wireless broadband service.

Tom Hendricks, VP Safety, Security and Operations
Air Transport Association

Esri

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provide real-time, mission-critical decision support for public safety departments, utilities, and other public and private entities. Emergency operations such as providing a common operating picture, dispatching services, routing vehicles, and tracking officers use GPS positioning to protect life and property. Any potential disruption of continuous, reliable GPS service will put human life in jeopardy and compromise countless emergency operations relying on GIS.

Avidyne Corporation

Avidyne Corporation is a manufacturer of certified avionics for use in general aviation airplanes and helicopters. Avidyne's equipment offerings includes a FAA-certified TSO-C146c GPS that is capable of WAAS precision approaches to many airports without ground-based navigation equipment. Avidyne also makes aircraft systems that rely on GPS position information for navigation and mapping. Additionally, Avidyne is currently developing many products to support the FAA's NextGen vision of increasing aircraft efficiency and safety, all of which rely on GPS information. Continued, reliable GPS position and timing information throughout the US is critical to our customers conducting safe flight operations.

AEA

The Aircraft Electronics Association (AEA) represents more than 1,300 aviation businesses, including manufacturers of avionics equipment, including aviation GPS systems, and repair stations that specialize in maintenance, repair and installation of avionics and electronic systems in general aviation aircraft.

The AEA is deeply concerned that the reallocation of L-band spectrum will result in negative interference to GPS receivers. It is imperative that the GPS national utility remain free of impediments to operation for more than 75 million North American GPS users.

For the general aviation community, of which our organization represents, this is a public safety issue that would threaten the safety of flight and risk the loss of pilots' primary means of navigation during a final approach.

NetworkFleet

Networkfleet's GPS tracking and diagnostic monitoring system is installed in more than 120,000 vehicles throughout the U.S. Companies large and small rely on Networkfleet to manage their business, increase the safety of drivers, and reduce operating costs. Our customers include federal and state governments, utilities, service companies, construction and transportation fleets. Any disruption to GPS signals could compromise their ability to operate their business and would have a negative impact on the economy.