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August 13, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Thank you for coming to Georgia! We appreciate your unyielding support for the ports of Savannah and Brunswick, which I have the honor of representing, as well as Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport which connects us to the world.

Like you, I know telecommunication and infrastructure is an integral part of our nation's economic engine. I was and continue to be a strong advocate of the bipartisan GPS Back-Up Timing Law which was part of the *Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018* (PL 115-282). As you know this legislation sets up a privately funded P3 that utilizes the existing but dormant Coast Guard eLORAN towers to build a land-based timing back up system to GPS.

By statute this critically needed system is to be fully operational by December 2020. However, contrary to the legislation and congressional direction, the RFP is being delayed waiting for the results of a much broader 2017 DHS/DOT GPS demonstration project which is already severely behind schedule. While the two are related, implementing the Timing Law is not contingent on these results. In fact the law states that DOT is not to wait for the completion of this demonstration in meeting the deadlines of the Law: DOT will *"incorporate the recommendations from any GPS back-up demonstration program initiated and completed by the Secretary, in coordination with other Federal agencies, before the date specified...in the act"*.

Numerous studies have already been conducted which have concluded that the terrestrial based eLORAN solution is the best way to quickly address this gap in our national security.

I urge you to immediately move forward with Timing Law in order to avoid further delays. I stand ready to provide any congressional support necessary for swift action.

Thank you for your consideration and for coming to Georgia.

Sincerely,

  
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress