



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

February 2, 2016

The Honorable David Vitter  
United States Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Vitter:

Thank you for your letter supporting Globalstar's petition seeking rule changes that would permit it to deploy terrestrial broadband services in the 2.4 GHz band. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

Globalstar's petition raises complex technical questions and the record in this proceeding demonstrates significant concerns on the part of other in-band and adjacent band spectrum users and licensees over potential interference from Globalstar's proposed deployment. These users and licensees include stakeholders with interests in WiFi, Bluetooth, Broadcast Auxiliary Service, Educational Broadband Service and Broadband Radio Service. Commenters in the proceeding have raised numerous issues, including the elimination of adequate spectral separation between Globalstar's proposed terrestrial low power network and WiFi channel 11, overlap with Bluetooth operations, and interference protection to broadcast auxiliary and broadband radio services.

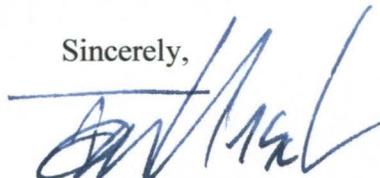
The Commission has been carefully considering the Globalstar proposal and examining the still growing record in the proceeding. I and the Commission staff have encouraged the interested parties to work together and share information to resolve interference concerns, however, strong disagreements about the potential for detrimental impact on current licensed and unlicensed services persist.

The Commission has worked diligently to better understand and resolve these issues and has been engaging closely with Globalstar. In March 2015, Globalstar and several interested parties participated in a demonstration of the proposed Globalstar system at the FCC's Technology Experience Center. In September 2015, Globalstar reported the results of tests conducted over the summer which the Commission has reviewed. In December 2015, my wireless advisor, Commissioner Clyburn, and staff from Commissioner Rosenworcel's office visited The Washington School for Girls to see Globalstar's technology in use. Finally, earlier this month, my office, the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology, and International Bureau met with Globalstar to inquire into its proposed deployment plan and network operating system.

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Commission staff continues to meet with Globalstar and potentially affected parties to understand and address potential interference and technical issues raised. I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Tom Wheeler