

CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
2ND DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE:

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY, *RANKING MEMBER*

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:

CRIME, TERRORISM, HOMELAND SECURITY
AND INVESTIGATIONS

COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND
THE INTERNET

SENIOR WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1802

June 24, 2013

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The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Globalstar Petition for Rulemaking; RM-11685

Dear Chairwoman Clyburn:

I write to express my support for Globalstar's petition for rulemaking currently pending before your Commission and respectfully request that you release a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking permitting Globalstar to utilize its mobile satellite spectrum for terrestrial mobile broadband services.

Globalstar is a Louisiana company that has recently completed the launch of its second generation constellation of satellites that will provide critical communications services in post disaster situations to people, companies and first responders when all land-based communications networks fail. My constituents and I experienced the effects of Hurricane Katrina first hand when satellite-based communications were so integral in performing safety of life services and response. There were over ten thousand Globalstar phones operating in the Gulf Coast region after Hurricane Katrina. We need to ensure that Globalstar has the ability to continue providing these unique services well into the future.

I am also enthusiastic about Globalstar's ability to provide much-needed terrestrial mobile broadband services. As you have previously recognized, and as most everyone now unfortunately experiences on a daily basis, our Wi-Fi airspace is traffic-jammed with use and is quickly reaching exhaustion. I applaud your Commission's actions to free up additional unlicensed spectrum to alleviate this current congestion and believe you should take an "all of the above" approach to identifying and implementing solutions. That is why I urge you to commence Globalstar's requested rulemaking. Based on the information that I have reviewed, Globalstar has the unique ability to immediately increase the Nation's potential Wi-Fi capacity by a third due to its mobile satellite service spectrum being adjacent to the public Wi-Fi band.

Recently, President Obama “strongly encouraged” the FCC to expedite requests such as Globalstar’s to provide innovative and disruptive new wireless technologies as rapidly as possible in order to expand America’s leadership in wireless innovation. The President also recently announced his goal to provide true mobile broadband services to our nation’s schools and libraries. I believe that swift action on Globalstar’s petition is a good first step to ensuring that his ambitions objectives are met.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. L. Richmond", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress