

Marlene S. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: RM No. 11681; IB Docket No. 12-340**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I write in support of Ligado's proposal to fund the creation and operation of a non-profit organization to deliver weather information over the Internet to the general public, including to libraries, schools, and other organizations.

Ligado has proposed that the license winner of the 1675-1680 MHz band should be required to fund for 10 years the creation and operation of an Internet-based "Content Delivery Network" that will deliver weather information from NOAA satellites in a manner that is (at a minimum) equivalent to or better than the quality of the information currently received via a satellite dish. Non-NOAA users currently use this spectrum to "listen in" to the unaltered weather data gathered from NOAA satellites. Under the proposed Content Delivery Network (CDN), the license winner would re-distribute the **unaltered** data to non-NOAA users and others over a high-quality terrestrial-based private network directly to end users (without the need for a satellite dish).

This cloud-based distribution system could expand the availability of government-generated data to a wider audience of people and organizations. At present, this information is only available to those who have purchased a satellite dish that can cost well over \$120,000. In contrast, the proposed CDN would make this information available to anyone with an Internet connection.

Libraries have a strong interest in promoting the free flow of information and universal access to data. The availability of this data over the Internet could be helpful to library patrons conducting scientific research, students working on science projects, local organizations planning outdoor activities, universities, local governments and public safety officials. Software developers could develop applications that translate this information into more user-friendly formats for use by the general public. The CDN would also allow data to be stored for later retrieval, which could also be useful for long-term research about climate change and for other purposes.

It is also noteworthy that the new organization responsible for operating the CDN (and funded by the license winner) would be managed by actual users of this information. Ligado has suggested several steps to facilitate the selection of a board of directors, by-laws, and articles of incorporation to begin the process of creating the non-profit organization, but Ligado does not propose to run the organization. User governance of the organization is an important principle that will ensure that it is responsive to the users' needs, not those of the funder.

I believe that the CDN proposed by Ligado to replace satellite delivery of weather information could have substantial benefits for the general public and the free flow of information. I encourage the FCC to strongly consider these public interest benefits when considering Ligado's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SBenton".

Susan Benton  
President and CEO  
Urban Libraries Council