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Docket 15-91

Original Message

From: bill kivler <bill.kivler@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 10:12 AM

To: Ajit Pai

Cc: bill.kivler@aol.com

Subject: Comment - Emergency communication potential

Accepted / Filed

AUG 29 2017

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Pai:

I am a former Disney executive who has held emergency management responsibilities throughout my past professional life. I have been looking at the devastation in Houston over the past weekend. Among the many issues which the event has brought to light, it becomes clear that the more reliant we as a nation are on connectivity, the more it tends to let us down in times of need. It struck me that perhaps there might be a potential option using the nations' current technology. Given the assumption that all smart phones have GPS chips for geolocation, perhaps they could be used in events of extreme emergency to facilitate both users and government entities struggling to respond.

One can subscribe to paid satellite use through several manufactures today. One which comes to mind, which I use, is the Garmin Delorme InReach system. Through it one can send SOS messages delivering coordinates to the monitoring center in extreme emergencies. It can also send 160 character text messages anywhere to any device. As it is bi-directional, it is a communications method.

If through time OEM's could be convinced to allow GPS to be enabled to perform this type of function perhaps qualified by the governments allowing certain permissive system access through enabling GPS coordinate blocks in areas of disaster, it might be a way to help those who have technology use it beneficially that today just fails due to network failures in emergencies.

A final thought, perhaps as a first step, manufacturers and the government could enable one way general broadcasts through the GPS system to those within a defined emergency declaration zone. It would enable one way short messages to be broadcast en-mass for critical alerts similar to the way emergency alerts are broadcast today through terrestrial networks but it would not have to rely on those networks.

I realize there is a lot of work to do and this is not an easy solutioun but it just seems that with lives on the line, perhaps the government should be able to leverage currently available assets to help our nation..

I very much appreciate you time

Regards

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Bill Kivler

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