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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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August 8, 2006

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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**Re: Report No. 2784 – In the Matter of Request by Globalstar, Inc. To Expand Its Ancillary Terrestrial Component (“ATC”) Authority To Encompass Its Full Assigned Spectrum**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to express my strong support for Globalstar, Inc.’s pending Petition for Rulemaking seeking authority to use all of its Mobile Satellite Services (“MSS”) spectrum to provide Ancillary Terrestrial Component (“ATC”) services. Globalstar, located in Milpitas, CA in my Congressional District, provides invaluable services to first responders during times of emergency. The benefits of these services warrant action by the Commission to remove regulatory obstacles that prevent Globalstar from making the most efficient use of its assigned spectrum to meet the current and future needs of its public safety and other customers.

As Congress, the Commission, and the public learned in the aftermath of last summer’s hurricanes in the Gulf Coast states, satellite services can provide invaluable communications capabilities for first response teams and other public safety and governmental officials during times of emergency. Were it not for the ability of Globalstar and other satellite providers to provide uninterrupted service following those storms — when land-based communications networks were rendered largely inoperable — many first responders would have been left with no means of communicating among themselves and with the rest of the country. I understand that, once fully deployed, Globalstar’s MSS/ATC network will make Globalstar’s services even more valuable in future natural disasters and other emergencies, by providing a variety of enhanced services to customers in rural and remote areas, as well as truly ubiquitous service to customers in urban areas and inside buildings, where satellite signals often are blocked.

Despite these substantial public benefits that Globalstar’s MSS/ATC network will offer, I understand that the Commission’s current ATC rules allow Globalstar to use only less than half of its assigned spectrum to provide ATC services. I understand that this limitation unfairly disadvantages Globalstar as compared to other MSS providers, which are allowed to deploy ATC services throughout their assigned spectrum should they choose to do so. I understand also that

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Globalstar has committed that, if it is granted the authority to provide ATC services across all of its assigned spectrum, it will ensure that its operations will not cause harmful interference to other licensees. In light of these facts, I am not aware of any reason to retain this unnecessary restriction on Globalstar's ability to make full use of its assigned spectrum.

In light of the benefits that Globalstar's MSS/ATC services will provide to federal, state, and local public safety officials, I urge the Commission promptly to grant Globalstar's petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael M. Honda". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line.

Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

cc: Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert J. McDowell