

SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904  
(202) 224-2523  
(202) 224 2693 (FAX)

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
RANKING MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ARMED SERVICES  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

October 14, 2009

International LORAN Association  
741 Cathedral Pointe Lane  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Dear Conference Attendees:

I would like to commend the important work of the International LORAN Association, and wish you a productive annual meeting as you plan and contemplate the future of eLORAN. I am particularly pleased that you chose to hold this year's meeting in the State of Maine. Welcome!

Given the well-documented vulnerabilities of the Global Positioning System (GPS), I am convinced that LORAN-C infrastructure should be upgraded so that the eLORAN system can serve as a national Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) backup for GPS. I have vigorously advocated for maintaining and upgrading LORAN, including most recently, during a debate on the Senate floor on an amendment to this year's homeland security appropriations bill that would have stripped all funding for the LORAN program. The Senate successfully defeated that amendment.

Although I was not a conferee on the homeland security appropriations bill, I sent a letter to the House and Senate conferees explaining the need to continue to fully fund this important program. Bowing to the Administration's continuing efforts to end the program, however, it appears that the conferees have included language in the bill that would allow the Secretary of Homeland Security to terminate the LORAN-C program. Before the termination can take place, however, the Secretary must certify that the LORAN-C infrastructure is not needed for a backup to GPS.

I will continue to work with my allies in Congress to ensure that the Secretary fully understands the effect a decision to terminate the LORAN-C program would have on your stakeholders. An independent assessment team commissioned by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Transportation unanimously recommended upgrading to eLORAN and concluded that the cost would be approximately \$100 million, which is about the same cost as dismantling the current LORAN-C infrastructure. I will encourage the Secretary to consider this important cost factor, as well as the needs of all critical infrastructure users of GPS, prior to making a final decision on the backup requirement for this vital system.

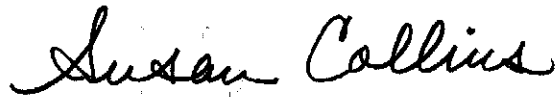
The individuals and businesses represented here today have all played a critical role in proving the utility and effectiveness of eLORAN. I encourage you to continue to make the case



for eLORAN, and remember that the ubiquitous GPS system also faced numerous critics and skeptics when it was initially proposed.

I am confident that the International LORAN Association, supported by its industry partners, is uniquely positioned to play an important role in educating the public and national policymakers about the merits of eLORAN. I stand ready to assist in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator