



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

August 19, 2004

The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman ~~Sensenbrenner~~:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting the continuation of Loran as part of the long-term navigation system mix necessary to meet our Nation's transportation safety and security goals. I share your view regarding the importance of arriving at a decision concerning Loran's role as part of the Nation's long-term radionavigation system mix.

Given a concern in some quarters that Loran would not meet the requirements of its primary intended beneficiaries, specifically the aviation, maritime, and timing communities, at the end of 2002 the Department of Transportation (DOT) Position, Navigation and Timing... Executive Committee (POS/NAV EC) initiated two studies, one technical, the other a benefit-cost analysis, to answer critical questions that were key to making an informed and unbiased decision on the fate of Loran. These questions were:

- Can Loran meet aviation Non-Precision Approach (NPA) requirements?
- Can Loran meet maritime Harbor Entrance and Approach (HEA) requirements?
- Can Loran meet timing and frequency requirements?
- Can Loran meet all requirements in a cost-beneficial manner?

The required reports were delivered on time to DOT at the end of March this year. As you indicate in your letter, both the technical and the benefit-cost studies had favorable findings. The reports were distributed for review by interested agencies. The results of the reports were also formally presented to the POS/NAV Working Group for review, comment, and briefing up to working group principals on the POS/NAV EC. The POS/NAV EC met in early June to consider the findings of these reports. The POS/NAV EC will shortly deliver their recommendation to me concerning Loran as part of the Nation's long-term radionavigation infrastructure.

Please be assured that a decision will be made soon concerning Loran's role as part of the Nation's long-term radionavigation system mix.

An identical letter has been sent to each cosigner of your letter. If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

Norman Y. Mineta