

PRECISION AGRICULTURE SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY ACT

APRIL 25, 2023.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1339]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1339) to require the Federal Communications Commission to review certain rules of the Commission and develop recommendations for rule changes to promote precision agriculture, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 1339 requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to review its rules regarding certain satellite communications services to determine if changes to its rules could promote

precision agriculture. If the FCC determines that there are rule changes that could be made under the FCC's existing authority to promote precision agriculture, the FCC must develop recommendations and submit them to Congress within 15 months of enactment.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Precision agriculture allows for the optimization of crop yield, water usage, and soil sustainability. Unfortunately, many rural communities have little or no connectivity, thereby reducing the ability for many farmers to utilize precision agriculture. Additionally, there are earth exploration and observation services authorized by the FCC that could promote precision agriculture. These satellite technologies offer the opportunity to expand the use of precision agriculture throughout the United States, and this legislation would require the FCC to evaluate its rules to see if there are changes that can be made to promote this deployment.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

On February 2, 2023, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled, "Launching Into the State of the Satellite Marketplace." The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Tom Stroup, President, Satellite Industry Association
- Julie Zoller, Head of Global Regulatory Affairs, Project Kuiper at Amazon
- Jennifer A. Manner, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, EchoStar Corporation
- Margo Deckard, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Lynk Global, Inc.
- Kari Bingen, Director of the Aerospace Security Project and Senior Fellow at the International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies.

On February 8, 2023, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled, "Liftoff: Unleashing Innovation in Satellite Communications Technologies." The Subcommittee received testimony on H.R. 1339 from:

- David Goldman, Senior Director of Satellite Policy, SpaceX
- Peter Davidson, Vice President of Global Government Affairs & Policy, Intelsat
- Whitney Q. Lohmeyer, Professor of Engineering, Olin College of Engineering
- Danielle Piñeres, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs & Compliance, Planet Labs

On March 8, 2023, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology met in open markup session and forwarded H.R. 1339, without amendment, to the full Committee by a record vote of 27 yeas and 0 nays. On March 23, 2023, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 1339, without amendment, favorably reported to the House by a record vote of 46 yeas and 0 nays.

#### COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto.

The following reflects the record votes taken during the Committee consideration:

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
118TH CONGRESS  
ROLL CALL VOTE # 3**

**BILL:** H.R. 1339, the Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity act

**AMENDMENT:** A motion by Mrs. Rodgers to order H.R. 1339 favorably reported to the House, without amendment (Final Passage).

**DISPOSITION:** **AGREED TO**, by a roll call vote of 46 yeas and 0 nays.

REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
Rep. Rodgers	X			Rep. Pallone	X		
Rep. Burgess				Rep. Eshoo	X		
Rep. Latta	X			Rep. DeGette			
Rep. Guthrie	X			Rep. Schakowsky	X		
Rep. Griffith	X			Rep. Matsui	X		
Rep. Bilirakis	X			Rep. Castor	X		
Rep. Johnson	X			Rep. Sarbanes	X		
Rep. Bucshon				Rep. Tonko	X		
Rep. Hudson	X			Rep. Clarke	X		
Rep. Walberg	X			Rep. Cárdenas	X		
Rep. Carter	X			Rep. Ruiz	X		
Rep. Duncan	X			Rep. Peters	X		
Rep. Palmer	X			Rep. Dingell	X		
Rep. Dunn	X			Rep. Veasey	X		
Rep. Curtis	X			Rep. Kuster	X		
Rep. Lesko	X			Rep. Kelly			
Rep. Pence	X			Rep. Barragán	X		
Rep. Crenshaw				Rep. Blunt Rochester	X		
Rep. Joyce	X			Rep. Soto	X		
Rep. Armstrong				Rep. Craig	X		
Rep. Weber	X			Rep. Schrier	X		
Rep. Allen	X			Rep. Trahan	X		
Rep. Balderson	X			Rep. Fletcher	X		
Rep. Fulcher	X						
Rep. Pfluger	X						
Rep. Harshbarger	X						
Rep. Miller-Meeks	X						
Rep. Cammack	X						
Rep. Obernolte	X						

## OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held (a) hearing(s) and made findings that are reflected in this report.

## NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 1339 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, at the time this report was filed, the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not available.

## FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

## STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to require the Federal Communications Commission to review its rules regarding certain satellite communications services to determine whether any changes could be made to promote precision agriculture, and if so, develop and submit recommendations to Congress on the rule changes that could promote precision agriculture.

## DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 1339 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

## RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following hearings were used to develop or consider H.R. 1339:

On February 2, 2023, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled, “Launching Into the State of the Satellite Marketplace.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Tom Stroup, President, Satellite Industry Association
- Julie Zoller, Head of Global Regulatory Affairs, Project Kuiper at Amazon
- Jennifer A. Manner, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, EchoStar Corporation
- Margo Deckard, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Lynk Global, Inc.

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- David Goldman, Senior Director of Satellite Policy, SpaceX
- Peter Davidson, Vice President of Global Government Affairs & Policy, Intelsat
- Whitney Q. Lohmeyer, Professor of Engineering, Olin College of Engineering
- Danielle Piñeres, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs & Compliance, Planet Labs

#### COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the estimate was not available.

#### earmark, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 1339 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

#### APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

##### *Section. 1. Short title*

This section designates that the short title may be cited as the “Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act.”

##### *Section. 2. Precision agriculture satellite connectivity*

*Subsection (a)* requires the Federal Communications Commission (the Commission), in consultation with its Precision Agriculture Task Force, to (1) review the rules of the Commission relating to fixed satellite service, mobile satellite service, and earth exploration satellite service to determine whether there are any changes to its rules that could promote precision agriculture; and (2) if the Commission identifies such changes, to develop recommendations for how to implement those changes.

*Subsection (b)* requires the Commission to submit, not later than 15 months after the date of enactment, a report to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on

Commerce, Science, and Transportation on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a), including any recommendations.

*Subsection (c)* defines key terms.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

This legislation does not amend any existing Federal statute.

