



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

August 30, 2004

Mr. Earl M. Waesche
Legislative Director, National
Boating Federation
819 Midship Court
Annapolis, MD 21401-7380

Dear Mr. Waesche:

Thank you for your letter of June 3 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 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. We are currently working with the Department of Homeland Security on the backup timing capability as a part of our critical infrastructure. The POS/NAV EC will shortly deliver their recommendation to the Secretary of Transportation concerning Loran as part of the Nation's long-term radionavigation infrastructure.

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

If I can provide further assistance, please feel free to call me at (202) 366-0582.

Sincerely,

Tyler Duvall
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Transportation Policy