

Summary of Testimony of Jennifer A. Manner, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and  
International Strategy

December 16, 2025

- AST SpaceMobile, a Texas-based company, is manufacturing, deploying and operating the first and only space-based platform to deliver mobile broadband services directly to unmodified user devices – no special equipment-- no modifications. Through this network, mobile phone users across the United States and globally will very shortly have full broadband - voice video, streaming, apps and data on their mobile phones – even when the terrestrial network is not available.
- AST SpaceMobile supports the goals of the Emergency Reporting Act and is dedicated to ensuring that AST SpaceMobile’s technology will soon make network outages a thing of the past.
- AST SpaceMobile also supports the purpose and intent of the Mystic Alerting Act, which will provide consumers with information to ensure that their satellite-based connectivity to their mobile device is always on. We never want to see a day again in Texas or anywhere in America like we did on July 4, 2025.
- AST SpaceMobile is also pleased to see Congress considering the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act to provide the public safety community with the resources it needs to make Next Generation 9-1-1 a reality across the country.
- Finally, AST SpaceMobile looks forward to the passage of the Public Safety Communications Act and working in closer collaboration with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and other U.S. government agencies to ensure public safety has access to space-based mobile broadband connectivity.

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**Introduction and Background**

Chairman Hudson, Ranking Member Matsui, Chairman Guthrie, and Ranking Member Pallone, thank you for the opportunity to speak today about legislative improvements to public safety communications in the United States. Improving public safety communications through legislation, as well as through American innovation, such as the space-based mobile broadband connectivity my company is providing, will positively influence and improve the lives of all Americans in their everyday activities and during emergencies.

My name is Jennifer Manner and I am the Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and International Strategy at AST SpaceMobile, a Midland, Texas-based company, with operating and manufacturing facilities in Maryland and Florida. We are proud to be the first and only provider of space-based mobile broadband services directly to unmodified user devices like the smart phones each of us have with us today – requiring no special equipment – no modifications. The AST SpaceMobile system is the only *purpose built* system for Direct-to-Device, with the largest antennae array ever placed in orbit, for the purpose of providing a superior Mobile Broadband experience. We have 6 satellites in orbit and are scheduled to launch 45 to 60 of our Blue Bird 2 satellites by year end 2026 which will enable continuous coverage of the United States. We have strategic partnerships with AT&T, Verizon, Vodafone, Google, Rakuten, American Tower, and Bell Canada; and 50+ partnerships with global mobile network operators (MNOs) to be able to provide a turnkey service to their combined 3 billion customers. Through our space-based network, mobile phone users across the United States and globally will very soon have full broadband capabilities – that means voice video, streaming, apps and data –

on their mobile phones – even when the terrestrial network is not available. AST SpaceMobile is proud to be a part of strengthening economic opportunity and national security while maintaining America's leadership in space technology.

## **Space-Based Broadband is a Critical Component of Addressing Connectivity Gaps Across the Country and Ensuring Reliable Access to Public Safety Communications**

Despite Americans' widespread adoption and dependence on smartphones in their daily lives (there are approximately 386 million mobile subscribers in the United States, with 15% relying on smartphones as their primary means of accessing broadband services), approximately 7% of Americans remain unconnected to broadband services, primarily Americans residing in rural areas. This gap in connectivity poses a substantial challenge to public safety, especially in emergencies when timely access to information and resources can mean the difference between safety and harm. The AST SpaceMobile network can and will address this gap.

Because of our space-based wide area coverage, our network will have a vast impact on Americans day-to-day lives and, importantly, in times of emergencies. Our mission is to eliminate connectivity dead zones in the United States and worldwide and expand broadband access globally to the billions of people that are currently left unconnected – democratizing access to the digital economy and online services such as healthcare, banking, education, job opportunities and emergency response. The AST SpaceMobile network will not only provide service where the terrestrial network does not exist but also supplement the wireless networks of our U.S. partners, AT&T, Verizon and FirstNet's, where coverage is poor or inadequate to ensure an always best-connected experience. The AST SpaceMobile network is both a complementary “meshed” network to the terrestrial network, and a complete stand-alone *Secondary* network in times of emergency.

In addition to advances in industry, thoughtful governmental policy is needed to ensure reliable emergency communications and eliminating dead zones. AST SpaceMobile is pleased to be supportive of several pieces of legislation being considered today.

#### **H.R. 5200, the Emergency Reporting Act**

AST SpaceMobile supports the goals proposed by the Emergency Reporting Act. However, I am hopeful that as AST SpaceMobile's services become available across the United States, network outages will ultimately become a thing of the past as mobile phones will soon automatically switch over to space-based mobile broadband connectivity when the terrestrial network is not available.

#### **H.R. \_\_\_\_\_, the Mystic Alert Act**

As a Texas-based company, where a significant number of our employees live, we take the need for improved emergency services seriously. The recent flooding in Texas is yet another tragic reminder of how critical it is to always have constant access to communications. I am pleased that because of AST SpaceMobile's coverage and capabilities we are well-positioned to partner with first responders and governmental stakeholders to advance public safety for Americans across the country, including the public safety community. It is for this reason that we fully support the intent and purpose of the Mystic Alerting Act, which will provide consumers with information to ensure that their satellite-based connectivity to their mobile device is always on. We never want to see a day again in Texas or anywhere in America like we did on July 4, 2025.

## **H.R. 6505, the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act**

We are also pleased to see Congress considering the Next Generation 9-1-1 Act to provide the public safety community with the resources it needs to make Next Generation 9-1-1 a reality across the country.

But we don't want the action to end here. We are working with our MNO partners, AT&T and Verizon, to ensure that they can meet their public safety requirements to subscribers of our space-based services. Because our capacity supports our partners networks, we are working together to integrate our technologies as our network is launched and deployed to enable these critical emergency services. This will of course take time and funding, but we are committed to this important initiative and look forward to continuing to work with Congress and the Administration to make this a reality.

## **H.R. 1519, the Public Safety Communications Act**

Finally, I want to address the important role of our network for first responders across the country, including FirstNet. I am simply amazed at how far we have come. I was Deputy Chief of Public Safety and Homeland Security at the Federal Communications Commission when FirstNet was being created by Congress. During that time, we foresaw the need for broadband satellite connectivity, but space-based mobile broadband connectivity was not even being considered at that time. Therefore, the plan was to have regional supplies of transportable satellite broadband equipment available to FirstNet. While this was an important step, it was not ideal as it required pre-planning to use the equipment. Now, a little later, because of U.S. innovation, AST SpaceMobile working with FirstNet and the public safety community, will

ensure every first responder has broadband capability in their mobile device, enabling an always best-connected experience. To this end, we look forward to passage of the Public Safety Communications Act and working in closer collaboration with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and other U.S. government agencies to ensure public safety has access to space-based mobile broadband connectivity.

## **Conclusion**

It is my honor to be included in today's hearing and to collaborate on how we can work together to make a truly generational impact on public safety communications for all Americans using AST SpaceMobile's space-based mobile broadband network. Thank you for your attention and dedication to this critical issue. I look forward to answering any questions you may have today, and to continuing to support your efforts to improve public safety communications for all Americans.