

To the Federal Communications Commission:

My name is Gideon van Buitenen, and I am writing from Dordrecht, The Netherlands. I am concerned about Reflect Orbital's proposal [SAT-LOA-20260108-00016] and the risks and impacts of deploying satellite constellations at an unprecedented scale.

I am concerned that this proposal endangers universal access to astronomical heritage and science, with inescapably global consequences, and creates substantial risks of collisions and cascading space debris that could threaten human safety on Earth.

I call on the Federal Communications Commission to reject this proposal.

Key concerns are:

Loss of the night sky: Light scattered from satellite surfaces would contribute to rising skyglow and erode humanity's view of the stars.

Ecosystem disruption: Further interference with natural cycles of light and darkness that wildlife and ecosystems, as well as humans, depend on.

Atmospheric impacts: Increased pollution from frequent launches and satellite re-entries, with long-term effects that remain poorly understood.

Cultural heritage: The night sky has inspired art, literature, mythology, and scientific inquiry for millennia, and its degradation diminishes humanity's collective connection to this irreplaceable legacy. Protecting access to the night sky is therefore essential for both participating in science and preserving our shared cultural heritage.

Access to science: This proposal threatens universal access to astronomical science by making it increasingly difficult for individuals, including amateur astronomers, to collect observational data and participate in ongoing scientific projects, undermining the right of everyone to freely participate in the cultural life of the community and to share in scientific advancement, as recognized in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Depriving us of the night sky erodes our sense of who we are and our place in the universe.

For these reasons, and recognizing that not all innovation is progress, I respectfully urge the FCC to reject this proposal, whose effects extend far beyond national boundaries and impact the global night sky.

Sincerely,

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