

Comments Re LightSquared use of FCC spectrum

IB Docket No. 11-109

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this comment to oppose the waiver request from LightSquared to operate high powered terrestrial transmitters on a radio frequency adjacent to the low powered Global Positioning System (GPS) frequencies. As independent studies have shown, the use of LightSquared's transmitters on radio frequencies adjacent to GPS frequencies causes substantial interference to many different types and brands of GPS receivers.

Over the past 20 years, the use of GPS has exploded and has expanded to a multi-billion dollar industry, reaching many facets of our everyday lives. GPS is involved in everything from navigation, tourism, national defense, search and rescue, 911 services, aviation, timing and synchronization, surveying, construction, agriculture, mining, and many other industries. To allow one company access to intentionally jam the GPS signal and harm all of these industries would be fatal to our nation and the economy.

The decision to allow LightSquared to continue would also harm me personally. I am an entrepreneur who recently started a new business, selling and servicing precision GPS equipment to the agriculture industry. If LightSquared is allowed to use any frequency adjacent to the GPS band, this could negatively impact my business and all of my customers. The use of high precision GPS receivers in the agricultural industry is growing very rapidly and has helped keep food costs from rising, due to efficiencies in seed, fertilizer, chemical, fuel, and labor usage. These efficiencies have been made possible by using GPS in technologies such as auto-steer, prescription based variable rate application, and auto-section control. The investment in this technology is very high for many of my customers. If GPS signals become unusable, food prices will likely rise due to the inability to maintain the efficiency advances made in the last 15-20 years in the agricultural industry.

LightSquared's solution of a "stand-still" period of no broadcasting in the upper 10Mhz of the proposed band is no solution at all. The issue of GPS interference still exists, and a solution to the interference needs to be found before proceeding with any plan. Also, LightSquared has stated they will share in the cost of underwriting a workable solution for the small number of legacy precision measurement devices that may be at risk. In my opinion, LightSquared should be held 100% liable for any costs incurred to find and implement a solution to the GPS interference caused by their equipment.

I agree with the need for access to high speed internet in rural America. However, I disagree with the fast-tracked pace that LightSquared has proposed. The FCC should not allow LightSquared to

continue with the deployment of tens of thousands of terrestrial based transmitters. Furthermore, LightSquared should not be allowed to transmit any signal adjacent to the GPS bandwidth. More testing needs to be done and other frequencies, away from the GPS frequencies, should be considered for the use of LightSquared's network.

Sincerely,

Rick Applegate

Small Business Owner and Farmer