

California State Senate

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JUAN VARGAS
FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



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July 13, 2011

Honorable Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Comment Deadlines Established Regarding the LightSquared Technical Working
Group Report, IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Secretary Dortch,

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of the United States of America.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of "LightSquared," a company that is endeavoring to build a state-of-the-art open wireless broadband network and looking to create jobs and investment in our State. My understanding is that LightSquared has been working collaboratively with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), executive branch agencies, and the GPS community to ensure that their critical broadband services and GPS can coexist. At the request of the FCC, a technical working group has been formed and is submitting monthly reports to the FCC articulating its progress. I understand that LightSquared will only launch commercial operations in their band once the process with the FCC is completed to the satisfaction of the government.

I am writing to respectfully request that the FCC prudently and expeditiously vet LightSquared's next-generation of wireless broadband service. I do not, in any way, intend to suggest that the FCC approve or reject the LightSquared's service on its technical merits. Rather, I simply request that the FCC make a fair determination as efficiently as possible. I believe the constituents that I represent, families and businesses across California and the United States America, may benefit if LightSquared is able to accomplish the business objectives it has set forth. As GPS has become an essential and



useful part of the fabric of the lives of many Americans, I believe that LightSquared, too, has the same incredible potential.

For example, I support LightSquared's plans to bring high-speed wireless capacity to rural communities that I represent in the 40th Senate District in the California State Legislature. I believe that increasing the availability of high-speed mobile capacity to these areas and other underserved regions is positive and may allow more Americans to take advantage of cutting-edge telecommunications technology.

Additionally, my understanding is that LightSquared's next-generation wireless broadband service could improve the capabilities of emergency response professionals, especially first responders, who rely on seamless, high-quality communications to protect American families from harm. I support the effort of companies, like LightSquared, that complement their ground-based system with a satellite backup, allowing first responders to communicate if ground-based systems are damaged in a natural disaster.

Across America, demand for mobile-broadband service seems to be skyrocketing due to the tremendous proliferation of mobile devices into everyday life. Without robust investment and competition in this area, the United States risks falling behind in broadband speed, capacity and adoption, while other countries become leaders in this important area. This could be devastating for our nation's competitiveness in a rapidly globalizing economy. Healthy competition in the mobile-broadband marketplace may encourage the investment of billions of dollars and create thousands of jobs at a time when our economy sorely needs help.

For these reasons, I hope that you will prudently and expeditiously vet LightSquared's wireless broadband network. Thank you for your attention to this request. Please feel free to call me at (916) 651-4040 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Juan" and last name "Vargas" clearly legible.

Juan Vargas
Senator
California State Senate, 40th District