



ASSOCIATION FOR UNMANNED
VEHICLE SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL

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12 April 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
U.S. Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: FCC File No. SAT-Mod-20101118-00239, LightSquared Subsidiary LLC (LightSquared) Request for Modification of its Authority for an Ancillary Terrestrial Component

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As the President and CEO of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of unmanned systems, I recognize the importance of increased access to radio frequencies. However, AUVSI is deeply concerned about a recent Commission decision to grant LightSquared a conditional waiver to build high-powered terrestrial transmitters and use a radio frequency adjacent to the lower-powered Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite frequency. Because these frequencies are in the same radio spectrum range, the high-powered, terrestrial-based transmitters will drown out or significantly interfere with the weaker GPS signals, rendering GPS receivers unusable.

As you know, all around the world, unmanned systems (air, ground, and maritime) rely on accurate, dependable GPS signals. The lack of a reliable GPS signal poses a serious threat to our public safety and national defense, and the potential cost of retrofitting or replacing affected GPS receivers would be an undue burden. For this reason, AUVSI has joined the Coalition to Save Our GPS in order to emphasize the importance of protecting our GPS.

AUSVI is encouraged that the Federal Communications Commission has decided to establish a working group with industry and federal agencies to study the potential interference concerns. Such a significant change to the frequency spectrum should always be open for a full public comment period. It is our hope that any potentially harmful interference issues will be fully resolved before LightSquared, or any other similar applicant, is allowed to move forward with building terrestrial transmitters and operating on a frequency that could render GPS useless.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a statement for the record. If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please contact AUVSI's Executive Vice President, Gretchen West, at west@auvsi.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Toscano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Michael Toscano
President and CEO
AUVSI

Cc: Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith A. Baker