

Comments for proceeding number 11-109.

I am writing today to oppose an effort by LightSquared Communications to build a nationwide network of communications towers that would materially impact the ability of GPS receivers to work properly. I urge the FCC to prevent LightSquared from taking any action that would negatively affect GPS reception.

GPS is an essential service to all Americans, and especially those of us who use GPS for aviation purposes. Aviation GPS units cost tens of thousands of dollars to install and maintain, and their importance to pilots cannot be understated. If LightSquared is allowed to go forward with their plans unabated, aviation users of GPS would have to upgrade their equipment at substantial cost, if such an upgrade is even technically feasible at all.

Recent tests by the GPS and aviation industries have shown that LightSquared's network directly impacts aviation GPS reception. It is inconceivable that LightSquared believes that they should be allowed to impact the safety of pilots by building out their network in a way that interferes with a long-standing use of the radio spectrum. What's more, LightSquared comes to the table with unclean hands. They designed their technology with full knowledge of the surrounding spectrum, and have continued their efforts despite clear and convincing evidence that their technology detrimentally affects GPS.

The expansion of fast wireless internet access is an important goal. However, the service should be designed in a way that does not impact the existing use of the radio spectrum. The FCC should prohibit LightSquared from continuing their assault on the GPS spectrum.