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JAMES MONAHAN

July 29, 2011

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

Re: IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I would like to urge the Commission to support LightSquared's efforts to identify and mitigate potential interference issues with GPS devices. It would be disappointing if LightSquared were not allowed to move forward, given the great need in Massachusetts – and the rest of the nation -- for additional broadband wireless infrastructure.

As the Commission is well aware, demand for wireless service is growing at an extremely rapid rate, yet infrastructure is not. The likelihood is that the U.S. will have only three national providers in the coming years; even if they aggressively invest in upgrading their networks, the amount of spectrum dedicated to broadband is insufficient to the growing demand. It is thus essential that new spectrum come online, and soon. LightSquared represents the very best chance for that to happen.

This new wireless provider is actually an experienced telecom company, with a 15-year track record as a satellite telephone provider. It has the financing and technology in place to roll out a nationwide 4G-LTE network that would cover all of the country within four years, thanks in large part to its hybrid satellite-terrestrial model.

By bringing lightning-fast wireless broadband to underserved and unserved areas, LightSquared would help close the "digital divide" that increasingly disadvantages those without access to broadband. Again, the Commission is well aware of this issue and has appropriately tried to address it. Approving LightSquared's application would be the single best step toward ending the digital divide.

In addition to boosting broadband wireless infrastructure and closing the digital divide, the company would be a wholesale provider, boosting competition. And it would create thousands of jobs during its construction – a sorely needed economic stimulus funded entirely by the private sector.

As for the GPS interference issue, I will leave it to the engineers to find a solution. However, it bears pointing out that the GPS industry has had many years to prepare for an optimization of the spectrum adjoining its own. LightSquared first proposed adding a terrestrial wireless network to its satellite service 10 years ago. Several public hearings have been held. Stakeholders and concerned parties from the public and private sectors have had ample opportunity to weigh in. And LightSquared has spend millions of dollars already to help mitigate the interference problems. Yet the GPS industry has continued to deploy receivers that pick up signals from within LightSquared's licensed spectrum. Why?

The economic security of the U.S. depends upon development of a robust broadband wireless infrastructure. LightSquared would contribute greatly to that goal. The Commission should take the long view and do whatever is necessary to solve the technical challenges so that LightSquared can move forward and GPS can be maintained.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Monahan