

August 15, 2011

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

Re: Reply Comment, IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to ask the Commission's help to bring reliable broadband Internet and cell phone coverage to my rural legislative district.

My district is located in western Minnesota along the North Dakota and South Dakota borders. Breckenridge and Dilworth, with populations of just around 4,000 people, are some of the largest communities in my district. The residents of my district don't have reliable cell phone coverage. They also lack wireless Broadband internet service, which restricts the types of employers that can flourish. This is a problem for small towns seeking to create jobs.

LightSquared's nationwide satellite network will address this lack of access. This will help rural America start to compete on a more level playing field with their urban neighbors as well as foreign companies.

I understand there have been questions raised about whether LightSquared's signals will interfere with GPS devices that are receiving signals outside their authorized area. LightSquared's proposed solution is identical to the primary recommendation of the GPS Industry Council when it first identified the potential for interference at its receivers late last year. The GPS Industry Council then recommended a "modest guard band" next to the GPS frequencies and that terrestrial broadband services use frequencies "as far away from [the GPS frequencies] as possible." Now, LightSquared is proposing to use the frequencies furthest away from GPS, and LightSquared's proposal for a guard band of 23 MHz more than satisfies the Council's call for a "modest" guard band. I encourage the Commission to move without delay to approve policies that will expand rural access to needed telecommunications services.

Sincerely,

Rep. Paul Marquart

District 9B State of Minnesota