

August 04, 2011

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

Re: IB Docket No. 11-109

Ms. Dortch,

I have recently become aware of the ongoing conflict between the broadband start-up company LightSquared and the GPS industry. It is my understanding that this issue is being mediated by the Federal Communications Commission, so I am writing you today to urge your expedited support of LightSquared's nationwide 4G-LTE plan.

In today's high-tech world, Internet and cell phone usage are at all time highs. However, with a lack of available (and affordable) broadband capacity, millions of Americans still do not have the opportunity to surf the web or make important phone calls from their homes. This strictly limits the ability for people living in rural regions to keep up and compete with the rest of the nation. Communities across the country cannot afford to be left out of the digital marketplace, just because they are out of reach from obsolete cell towers. If the technology is available to provide these communities with broadband, we should act now, before they fall further behind the digital divide.

LightSquared's proposed network would not only provide Internet access to underserved communities across the states, but it would also increase the affordability and reliability of the networks of current users. The company's seamless hybrid satellite/terrestrial approach would blanket the country with high-quality, undisturbed broadband access.

Not only is the connection quality of LightSquared's network superior to that of current providers, but their revolutionary wholesale approach would create more competition within the wireless industry. It seems clear that upon the resolution of any interference issues, the LightSquared network is clearly the future of communications technology.

Now, it seems the only thing left to do is come up with a national approach to solve the interference issues that stem from a small percentage of GPS receivers that have been improperly designed to pick up signals inside the spectrum licensed to LightSquared. With the assistance and moderation of the FCC, I am confident that the GPS industry will soon realize that updating their antiquated systems is the most logical and beneficial solution for all parties involved, especially the Americans who are awaiting Internet access.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Howell". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large initial "S" and "H".

Stephen Howell