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Senate

State of Minnesota

August 4, 2011

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

Re: Comment Deadlines Established Regarding the LightSquared Technical Working Group Report, IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to encourage you to support expanded development of affordable wireless broadband, which will help add jobs and economic growth in Minnesota.

The lack of broadband in rural Minnesota is preventing the economic development and job growth Minnesota needs. According to the October 2010 Center for Rural Policy and Development – Minnesota Internet Survey, 33% of residents of Greater Minnesota lack broadband access.

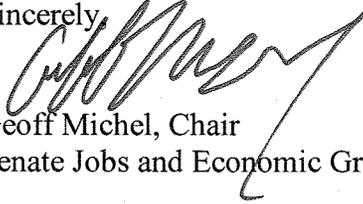
There appears to be a solution to the challenge of bringing wireless to rural communities. LightSquared, currently has an application pending before the Federal Communications Commission to offer an integrated nationwide satellite 4G network that will allow universal cell-phone and internet connectivity throughout the entire United States.

LightSquared's low-cost 4G network will increase greatly needed competition by enabling a diverse group of companies to sell wireless broadband – including retailers, cable operators, device manufacturers, Internet content creators and application providers. By making it possible for dozens of new competitors to bring high-speed wireless Internet to all Americans on wireless devices, LightSquared will drive down consumer costs, help bridge the digital divide and enable businesses and individuals to remain in now-underserved areas rather than having to relocate to urban settings with reliable broadband availability.



Our ability to grow jobs in Minnesota depends upon reliable communications and I encourage the Commission to support LightSquared's application to expand access to high-speed wireless Internet as well as cell phone service in rural America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Michel", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Geoff Michel, Chair
Senate Jobs and Economic Growth Committee