

I strongly urge the FCC to withdraw the preliminary approval to LightSquared (or any other company or government agency) to install a broadband system that would interfere with the GPS system.

I can tell you that in my over 20 years experience as a full-time, live-aboard boater, an accurate, reliable GPS system is absolutely, without question, completely essential for safety. This system allows me to navigate safely, in conjunction with good judgement and other systems, such as radar and VHF communication radio, in all waters in reduced visibility situations.

GPS is simply not an optional, nice-to-have piece of gear, but truly a required element of any navigation system. It is so valuable to me that I have five (5) GPS receivers on my boat to assure seamless operation in the event of the failure of one GPS unit or the vessel's electrical system.

An accurate and reliable GPS system is also essential for the operation of the AIS collision-avoidance system, which I use to assure timely communication with other vessels to assure safe passage. Further, GPS is the basis of the auto-pilot system which steers my vessel for long periods of time much more accurately than can be achieved manually.

Lastly, I have suspicions that the whole approval process allowing LightSquared to invade this area of band-width is politically motivated. I trust that the FCC will rise above this possibility and reverse the decision for the safety of all GPS system users.

I would be happy to expand upon this submission.