

RE: IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Secretary Dortch:

We are writing today on behalf of the 27,000 members of North Dakota Farm Bureau to request that the Federal Communications Commission withdraw the conditional waiver issued to LightSquared to provide wireless broadband services. Our members support high-speed broadband services and recognize the need for those services in rural North Dakota. However, we do not believe those services should jeopardize the global positioning (GPS) systems.

Research has concluded that interference between GPS receivers and the LightSquared proposed network continues to be an issue. Therefore, we encourage you to deny the LightSquared waiver.

GPS and its accuracy is important to farmers and ranchers as they utilize precision farming in their operations. Disruption to GPS has the potential to reduce farm profitability by raising production costs and affecting farm and ranch operations. Precision agriculture using GPS allows farmers and ranchers to run efficient, economical and environmentally conscious operations.

Farmers use GPS for accurate mapping of field boundaries, roads and irrigation systems; precision planting; and targeting the application of fertilizer and chemicals that combat weeds and crop diseases. GPS also allows farmers to work despite low-visibility field conditions such as rain, dust, fog and darkness.

North Dakota Farm Bureau appreciates the work of the FCC to provide rural America with high-speed broadband services, the use of precision agriculture is also vital to America's farmers and ranchers as they continue to feed, fuel and clothe the world.