

As you consider the conditional approval for LightSquared, I write to ask you to preserve the integrity of the nation's GPS system.

Last year, the federal government shut down the Loran navigation system, making recreational mariners solely reliant on GPS for all electronic navigation needs. Like so many other GPS users around the country, GPS is now integrated into our daily outings, and we look to the FCC to protect the integrity of the GPS signal.

I recently found myself on the Chesapeake Bay with a thunderstorm moving in rapidly. I was using my GPS to allow me to skirt the shoals at Cove Point as closely as possible in order to reach a safe haven ahead of the storm as quickly as possible. In the middle of this maneuver, due to interference from some radio testing at the Navy's Pax River Naval Air Station, my GPS shut down completely. Although I was able to continue by using conventional navigation techniques, the lack of a precise position forced me to take a longer, more conservative course. As luck would have it, I did not beat the storm, but it passed harmlessly to my East.

Please do not force me to have to rely on luck instead of a dependable GPS signal for my safety. Wireless broadband service is important, but it should not come at the expense of GPS.

All the studies show that LightSquared's proposed network would cause interference and that there are no remedies. I rely on the FCC to protect the integrity of the GPS signal and that I support your recommendation to stop LightSquared's current proposal.

Sincerely,

Edward Criscuolo
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