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"Working Together for Healthier  
Communities"

March 26, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Reply Comments, Public Notice DA 12-214 (IB Docket 11-109)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

As the Kentucky Region 8 Hospital Preparedness Planning Coordinator with the Gateway District Health Department, I'm greatly concerned about the lack of redundant high-quality communications systems in rural parts of the country. During weather crises and other emergencies, first responders and public health agencies cannot function without fail-safe communications networks, and in this day and age such networks should include not only voice but data functionality.

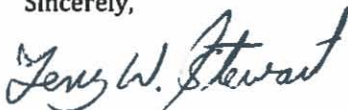
I can attest to the importance of communications networks from recent experience. Earlier this month, deadly tornadoes swept through Eastern Kentucky, causing widespread damage and killing 21 people – one of the worst disasters in Kentucky history. Power and phone lines were down throughout much of the affected area. But thanks to temporary assistance from satellite phones and related communications gear provided by LightSquared, first responders were able to communicate and coordinate effective disaster relief.

LightSquared has a long history of providing satellite communications services to public safety and public health agencies across the country, and its experience and skill was evident in Kentucky this month. I believe the country would benefit greatly from LightSquared's proposed nationwide satellite/terrestrial wireless broadband network, which could give public safety and public health agencies 24/7/365 access to a state-of-the-art backup communications system; such redundancy would surely save lives.

Mr. Chairman, those Americans who live in or near major metropolitan areas may not be able to relate to the notion that police, fire and ambulance service can be severely handicapped by inadequate communications infrastructure. But it is a reality for many parts of the country. The government should not rest until every American community is equipped with high-speed broadband wireless – and emergency personnel have a backup system in case the primary system fails.

I thus ask that you make every effort to find a way for LightSquared to bring the nation a new, competitive wireless communications network in the near future.

Sincerely,



Terry Stewart

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