

Vickie Brown
209 West Cypress Street
Brinkley, Arkansas 72021

December 6, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: RM-11683; IB Docket No. 12-340

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In a rural state such as Arkansas, increasing connectivity via wireless broadband is critical as many areas remain underserved and unable to partake in a global economy that is increasingly reliant on the speed and reliability of information technology. This is why I support efforts such as the one LightSquared has proposed to the FCC in expanding wireless broadband coverage in Arkansas and ultimately make such services more accessible and affordable to consumers.

Farmers in our area and throughout the Delta can purchase innovative tablets or smartphone applications that can significantly help them manage crops with real-time inventory and market reports while in the field, they are limited by the quality, reliability and affordability of wireless service. While 55% of farmers own phones capable of running paid apps that can help manage combine fuel tanks, crop yields, and equipment maintenance, what good will a \$200 smartphone do for farmers whose mobile data connectivity intermittently drops and costs an arm and a leg when it is connected?

I applaud the FCC Commissioners for bringing more attention to how broadband technologies can drive innovation, investment, competition and economic growth. I believe such technologies are an extraordinarily effective tool for development in rural communities where affordable connectivity can significantly reduce transactional costs such as transportation, time lags and other costs reduced by faster delivery of information. For example, mobile financial services provided by USAA or Merrill Lynch can help customers better manage their budgets and investment portfolios - whether they are at home or on the road.

LightSquared's wholesale-only business model will enable just about any rural or niche market carrier or company to expand or provide 4G-LTE coverage and be able to offer such services at competitive rates. For example, a combine manufacturer could partner with LightSquared to offer an affordable LTE-based mobile hot spot embedded in its cabs. As a result, the manufacturer would add a revenue stream to its equipment product lines and farmers would get a reliable service that significantly improves productivity because all of their farming apps would be able to reliably access a wireless broadband connection. As you may now understand, possibilities like this are limitless and LightSquared's network can drive the innovations and competition that can benefit everyone - especially those of us in rural America.

More specifically, LightSquared's proposal to join its licensed spectrum with a portion of government spectrum is a solution that I believe will ultimately benefit the public interest and consumers as the company has chosen to forego any terrestrial use of its licensed spectrum which reportedly caused interference issues with GPS receivers. Moreover, it would make better use of our nation's spectrum resources. FCC approval of LightSquared's application will balance the need to protect GPS, while promoting the public interest benefits of a new, wholesale-only broadband network.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vickie Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Vickie Brown

cc:

U.S. Senator John Boozman

U.S. Senator Mark Pryor

U.S. Representative Steve Womack