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November 29, 2012

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

Re: DA 12-1863, IB Docket No. 12-340; RM-11683

Dear Mr. Genachowski:

In the past, I have written to a number of Federal officials, including the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), urging them to help LightSquared help rural America by launching its 4G network, consisting of both satellites and traditional cellular towers. Today, I write again to strongly urge the FCC to approve the License Modification Application filed by LightSquared.

In particular, the mountain regions of Kentucky are underserved by good cell service, and economic development in these areas has been considerably hampered by the lack of this service. As the owner of a small insurance agency which traditionally has operated in rural areas of our state, I understand the critical importance of communications and cellular connectivity to economic development in our state.

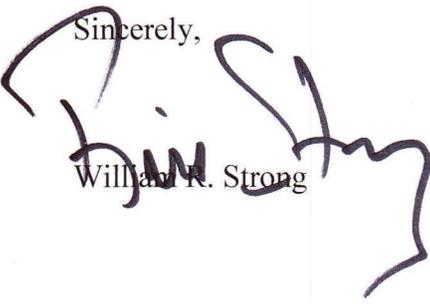
LightSquared will use only private funding to build its 4G network, and will utilize NO taxpayer money. This is very important in an age when every level of government is constrained by budget cuts and revenue shortfalls. Another important aspect of LightSquared’s plan is its proposal to sell its service through small independent retailers, rather than through a network of company owned retailers. This will increase economic activity in rural areas, and will foster the creation of jobs.

This is an issue of vital importance to rural Kentucky, and to the nation. Spectrum is a finite resource and an increasingly valuable one. We forget that there are limits on things like broadcast spectrum, and that we need to utilize all of the spectrum available to us as we try to keep our nation competitive in the world market. I have read that a comprehensive review of the economic impact of wireless broadband on the U.S. economy showed that the wireless industry accounted for \$33 billion in productivity improvements for U.S. businesses in areas like medicine, fuel efficiency and sales and inventory management.

Over the next decade, wireless broadband is projected to account for almost \$1.5 trillion in increased productivity. Perhaps more importantly, wireless broadband provides unprecedented opportunities to empower individuals and families across all socioeconomic classes by enabling greater connectivity and facilitating core societal blocks like education. By ensuring that sufficient wireless broadband spectrum reaches consumers, entrepreneurs and businesses, the FCC can drive economic growth and improve the fabric that knits together our communities.

Eastern Kentucky is a region which faces many problems, economic, societal, and those relating to public safety. The one thing that these problems have in common is that good, reliable, broadband and cell phone service in rural areas will help solve every one of them. I strongly urge the FCC to grant LightSquared's application so that it can move forward with implementing its 4G network.

Sincerely,

  
William R. Strong