

JIM NICKELL
Rowan County Judge/Executive



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600 West Main Street • Morehead, KY 40351

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

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I serve as County Judge/Executive of Rowan County, Kentucky, a rural community in the Appalachian Mountains. I have written to the FCC and other Federal agencies in support of the plans of LightSquared on a number of occasions, because I believe that obtaining good cell phone and broadband wireless service is one of the most important issues facing my county. While my home county is very beautiful, and is the beloved home of my constituents, it suffers from very poor cell phone and broadband service. I now write to strongly urge the FCC to grant LightSquared's pending License Modification Application, so that LightSquared may move forward with its plans.

In the mountains of Kentucky, we got a wakeup call last spring when tornadoes roared through Morgan County and other counties in Eastern Kentucky. I was lucky in the sense that the tornadoes did not directly strike my home county, but surrounding counties were hard hit and by providing satellite telephones and other communications equipment, LightSquared significantly aided the relief efforts, which are still ongoing. I have read that, during the recent Hurricane Sandy natural disaster that LightSquared also provided satellite phones to these first responders as well. This impresses me, because it shows that LightSquared is a good corporate citizen and willing to assist local governments in time of crisis.

As an elected official, I have heard promises from government agencies about improving life in rural America, but the only private business I have heard about that plans to build an advanced system that will provide good 4G cell and internet service to rural America is LightSquared. I am particularly impressed by the fact that it will not use any government money for this.

Our region has been badly hindered in its economic development by the lack of a good communications infrastructure. The mountainous terrain is simply too rough to effectively cover with terrestrial towers alone, and the cell phone service here, where it exists at all is weak and spotty.

Hundreds of millions of Americans, and particularly those that live in rural Kentucky would benefit greatly from LightSquared's network. This is too important an issue to allow to be sidetracked by regulatory hurdles and bandwidth politics. Kentucky needs the benefit of LightSquared's system, and I urge the FCC to approve LightSquared's pending application. Thank you for allowing me to share my opinion, and that of my constituents, on this important issue.

Sincerely,

JIM NICKELL
Rowan County Judge/Executive