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FCC Mail Room

Patrick Flannery
Carter County Attorney

300 West Main Street
Courthouse Room 308
Grayson, KY 41143

Telephone 606-474-5081
Fax 606-474-0235

John Preston Thompson
Assistant County Attorney

Derrick E. Willis
Assistant County Attorney

December 30, 2012

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 am pleased to write to support LightSquared's pending License Modification Application, so that LightSquared may move forward with its plans to implement a revolutionary new 4G satellite-based cell phone and wireless broadband network. This network would be a great economic boost to rural counties, such as my home in Kentucky.

I grew up in, and still live in, Olive Hill, Kentucky, a city in Carter County, in the Eastern part of Kentucky. I serve as County Attorney for Carter County. Neither Grayson, the county seat, nor Olive Hill, are large towns, and each still feels a little bit like Mayberry looked on TV. Hardly a day goes by that those of us in rural America aren't reminded of how our communities are dying on the vine. We're born here, we're raised here and we would love nothing more than to stay here. But more and more of my constituents and friends have to leave rural Kentucky in order to find not just a better job, but simply a decent job. With the exceptions of strong values, character and work ethic, it seems we have less and less of almost everything that larger, metropolitan areas have. I sincerely believe that technology could be the great equalizer for rural America.

Carter County is a very rural county, and a county that has suffered historically from a lack of modern communications infrastructure, which has hampered both the economic development of the county, and its first responders' ability to serve our people. As County Attorney, I work closely with first responders in our county, and I know that LightSquared has a long history of assisting public safety officials in Kentucky, through its former SkyTerra line of satellite

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Page 2, continued...

telephones. While the tornadoes which ravaged much of Eastern Kentucky this past spring bypassed Carter County, I know that LightSquared proved itself to be a good corporate citizen by providing satellite telephones and communications equipment to first responders in the counties hit by these tornadoes.

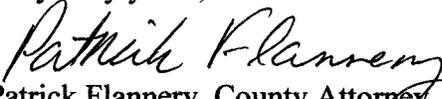
Because Carter County suffers from poor cell phone service outside the county seat of Grayson and my home town, Olive Hill, I am very interested in supporting any plan that will improve the cell phone service in Carter County and rural Kentucky in general without costing our financially strapped governments any money.

Therefore, I support the proposal LightSquared has placed before the FCC. Clearly, the FCC should push forward on all options to enable increased wireless broadband use throughout America. Moreover, the FCC should fulfill its public interest mandate by managing our spectrum resources such that consumers, companies and entrepreneurs are not held hostage by inflated prices essentially set by a few national gatekeepers. I believe that competition is good for any market, and that it will be particularly good for this market.

In light of the need to increase competition and mobile broadband spectrum supply in the wireless marketplace, the FCC should grant LightSquared's application to modify its license to vacate the use of 10 MHz of spectrum closest to the GPS-L1 band and be authorized to share use of 5 MHz that LightSquared can develop into a competitive, nationwide mobile broadband network. As stated in its application, LightSquared is uniquely suited to make this particular 5 MHz block of federal spectrum available to wireless broadband consumers because it is currently authorized to provide service in an adjoining 5 MHz block and has extensive experience coordinating with federal users in the spectrum neighborhood.

I realize that the FCC's concerns go far beyond Carter County, Kentucky, or any other specific area. However, I believe that the FCC understands that those of us who live and work in rural America need good broadband and cellular service just as more urban areas do. Therefore, I respectfully request that the FCC grant LightSquared's application modification, and allow it to move forward with its plans. Rural America needs all the help it can get, and it needs it now.

Very truly yours,


Patrick Flannery, County Attorney
Carter County, Kentucky

Copies to:

Hon. Mitch McConnell, US Senate

Hon. Rand Paul, US Senate

Hon. Thomas Massie, US House of Representatives

Hon. Hal Rogers, US House of Representatives