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James L. Mattingly (ret. 2005)

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

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

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments concerning the application of LightSquared for a modification of its FCC License. As County Attorney of a rural county, I see the needs of rural people every day, and sometimes I see those needs not being met. While Washington County, Kentucky, is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, because it is a rural county, the cell service is poor throughout most of the county.

It is easy to see this as a mere inconvenience, but in rural areas, our children do not have the same advantages those living in more urban areas have, because they lack the broadband wireless internet service and good quality cell phone service that those areas have. This places them at a disadvantage.

I believe that one solution to this problem is allowing LightSquared to modify its license so that it can build out its 4G system, using both satellite and ground based systems. I note that America 4G, a national wireless carrier, said in a public comment to the FCC: "For example, we firmly believe that LightSquared's planned network would enhance competition significantly by facilitating the ability of new providers, such as America 4G, to enter local, regional, and nationwide markets and serve consumers."

Here, increasing competition means the ability of a national carrier like America 4G, and a number of others, who made similar comments, to offer service in an area like ours, using LightSquared's system.

In Washington County, Kentucky, we need better cell phone and wireless broadband service for many reasons, most of which were mentioned in the public comments. I ask the FCC to approve LightSquared's application for a license modification, so that it can help rural areas like mine across the nation.

Very truly yours,


HAMILTON B. SIMMS
Washington County Attorney