

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Ethics, Vice Chairman
Conservation and Water Resources
County Affairs
Energy
Transportation
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January 22, 2013

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

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

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Five and a half years ago as a Supervisor on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, I worked tirelessly for the people of Jackson County after Hurricane Katrina leveled our homes and businesses. Then three years later, I testified in Washington on behalf of the folks whose livelihoods were threatened by the oil spill. And today, as a State Representative, I am writing to you to urge you to take the necessary steps to avoid another, avoidable disaster for these resilient Mississippians.

With our nation's wireless infrastructure reaching capacity, it is time for proactivity in protecting our wireless communications. LightSquared's devices (which, incidentally, were utilized in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina) have proven that they can provide fast and effective communications for public safety and emergency response, and reassigning LightSquared's spectrum to share with NOAA will pave the way for them to deliver this technology to rural Mississippi, first responders, and consumers who are anxiously awaiting access to affordable, reliable broadband.

This is technology that Mississippi needs. After serving as an elected official through two natural disasters in a five-year period, I can attest firsthand to the fact that moving expeditiously towards a viable solution can make all the difference in achieving the best possible results. I urge you to grant LightSquared's license modification as quickly as you can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Manly Barton".

Representative Manly Barton
District 109