May 24, 2011

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

Subject: In the Matter of LightSquared Subsidiary LLC Request for Modification of its Authority for an Ancillary Terrestrial Component; SAT-MOD-20101118-00239

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to express support for LightSquared’s plans to bring a much-needed 4G-LTE wireless network to Michigan. As a former Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, I strongly believe that LightSquared will benefit both our State and nation.

At a time when demand for mobile broadband is driving prices and congestion through the roof, expanding next-generation wireless capacity should be a top priority of Congress and our federal government. The U.S. is lagging when it comes to broadband speed, relegating some communities to second-class status in the Information Age and holding back economic recovery. Improving wireless broadband speed and reliability is especially important in Michigan, where it can help revitalize the economy and create jobs.

LightSquared’s wholesale 4G network will increase sorely needed competition by enabling a diverse group of companies to sell wireless broadband -- including retailers, cable operators, device manufacturers, Internet content creators and application providers. By making it possible for dozens of new competitors to bring high-speed wireless Internet to all Americans on wireless devices, LightSquared’s wholesale plan will ultimately drive down consumer costs, help bridge the digital divide and enable businesses and individuals to remain in now-underserved areas rather than relocating based on broadband availability.

The public safety community also needs this innovative new service. Although LightSquared is a new entrant to the 4G market, the company has a long history of providing reliable mobile communications to public safety agencies as a satellite communications provider. LightSquared’s 4G-LTE network will revolutionize mobile broadband for first responders, public safety and other public-sector users because its terrestrial network is backed up by the world’s largest commercial communications satellite, providing seamless uninterrupted service coast to coast even in the case of natural disasters.
Please work to ensure that this important new mobile broadband service is available as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Rick Johnson

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