July 7, 2011

The Honorable AL Franken  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chip Cravaak  
508 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Delegates:

I am writing on behalf of the Koochiching County Board to encourage your support of satellite telecommunication to provide cell phone and internet connectivity to areas in the United States that telecommunication companies now by-pass because it is not cost effective. Koochiching County, Minnesota is a remote and rural County with a large portion not receiving cell phone and internet services for the reason stated above. In addition, where companies are willing to provide service in the rural areas of the County, it comes with strong public opposition in having to erect unsightly towers in scenic areas.

The Koochiching County Board was excited to hear that satellite telecommunication is on the table as a potential resolution to providing needed telecommunication service to rural areas and as an alternative to tower placement.

We understand that LightSquared currently has an application pending before the Federal Communications Commission to offer an integrated nationwide satellite 4G network that will allow universal cell-phone and internet connectivity through the entire United States. We further understand that concerns have been raised about how LightSquared’s signal might affect GPS devices and aircraft and that the Company has proposed to shift the location of signals in their assigned bandwidth to address concerns with GPS signals.
Koochiching County depends upon reliable communication for public safety, economics and its public no matter where they may reside and we urge you to support the Federal Communications Commission’s process and encourage a timely decision to advance satellite telecommunication technology for the public’s benefit.

Sincerely,

Wade Pavleck
Board Chair

Cc: Secretary Marlene Dortch, Federal Communications Commission