July 25, 2011

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

RE: FCC File No. SAT-MOD-20101118-00239

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The California Spatial Reference Center (CSRC) at the University of California San Diego’s (UCSD) Scripps Institution of Oceanography, has over 300 members and constituent partners from local government (cities and counties), state government (California Department of Transportation, Department of Water Resources), the private sector (surveying, engineering, and consulting firms), water and flood districts (Metropolitan Water District, Santa Clara Water District), utilities (Pacific Gas and Electric Company), coastal managers (California Coastal Commission), professional organizations (California Land Surveyors Association), and research groups (universities, U.S. Geological Survey, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Plate Boundary Observatory), representing Global Positioning System (GPS), geographic information system (GIS), geodetic, surveying, engineering, and scientific interests throughout the state. The CSRC provides a modern statewide geodetic control network; establishes and maintains the legal spatial reference system for California, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Geodetic Survey (NGS); and operates the California Real Time Network (CRTN), consisting of 187 real-time GPS stations throughout the state.

Our society’s ubiquitous reliance on GPS as an integral tool used in navigation, aviation, transportation, construction, water management, public safety, emergency services, natural hazards mitigation, and national defense is indisputable. Of concern within California and more especially to CSRC, we utilize existing continuous GPS and related data processing infrastructure established over two decades of investments in earthquake-related science, totaling several 100 million dollars. In addition, any degradation of GPS signals jeopardizes our geophysical, meteorological, and earthquake and tsunami early warning research and fulfillment of our grant objectives as promised to our funding agencies, such as National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and National Science Foundation (NSF). The work and livelihood of CSRC and our colleagues depend on GPS technology.

Along with Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Commerce (DOC), NASA, and the Professional Land Surveying and Engineering professions, we urge you to protect GPS signals, a national resource and investment, against the
degradation and disruption from LightSquared’s proposed network of 40,000 ground stations in the U.S. We implore you to take the steps to objectively and unequivocally guarantee that the GPS signals are protected.

Respectfully,

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