Dear FCC,

The Use of high-precision GPS in Agriculture is very important to modern day agriculture. It helps us to be more environmentally friendly and more productive. We rely on High precision GPS for Applying Fertilizer, Planting our crops, spraying our crops, harvesting our crops, and fall and spring tillage.

Now with the use of high-precision GPS and Strip- Till Technology we are now able to use up to 30% less fertilizer while still producing higher yields. Another way that we utilize high-precision GPS is through section control on our planters and sprayers. As we approach the headland of a field the GPS senses where the planter is and shuts off each row individually as it gets into the area that has already been planted. This Saves seed and makes the headlands more productive because it isn’t over populated with too much pressure. On the sprayer we shut off each section of the boom off individually, the result of this is no over spray, it saves chemicals and puts less chemicals into the environment. In Harvest we use high-precision GPS to make yield maps of our fields, this shows the areas of the fields that need a different (prescription) than the rest of the field making us more productive for the next year. We also use high-precision GPS for auto-steer in our tractors, this technology allows us to spend longer days in the field without getting fatigued, this can be crucial in time pressed situations such as planting and spring tillage.

Without high-precision GPS our business would be greatly changed. We would be less productive and more wasteful. We would have to go back to broadcast methods of applying our fertilizer, which is just throwing the fertilizer on the top of the ground, not in the soil where the plant can absorb more of it and be more productive. This method also comes with a bigger risk of the fertilizer running off the field and getting into our rivers and streams. Our planter sprayer sections would be shut off with human err which isn’t nearly as close as what GPS can provide. We would no longer have the data that Yield maps provide us.

LightSquared’s proposed Broadband Internet coverage across the United States would wipe all this high-precision GPS technology out. LightSquared wants to use the same MSS band that many GPS receivers use today, this band was never intended for ground signals which are Billions of times stronger than GPS signals. The high-precision GPS industry built to use these signals because they believed that they would always be used for GPS use. LightSquared is now trying to blame the high-precision GPS industry for building on this band while they provide some of the corrective signals used by high-precision GPS products for a fee.

Broadband Internet coverage for the whole country would be great, but we shouldn’t sacrifice these things for it. We would become less productive and go back in time in terms of technology. I feel that LightSquared shouldn’t be permitted to build their Broadband network across the United States.

Thank you,

Eric Schwenke