May 19, 2011

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

SUBJECT: Letter of Concern Regarding Conditional Waiver for LightSquared Proposal; FCC  
File No. SAT-MOD-20101118-00239

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Amador County, CA, the Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) has been made aware of a conditional waiver issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) related to a proposal by the firm LightSquared to deploy a nationwide 4G wireless service that is anticipated to pose a significant threat of interference with the country’s GPS network.

The ACTC is working with the County Sheriff’s Office to deploy a GPS-based Emergency Signal Preemption system in order to facilitate quicker and safer emergency response throughout the region and is concerned this proposal may pose a significant threat to this Federally funded investment and other GPS-based Intelligent Transportation Systems the Commission may choose to implement in the future.

As the ACTC understand, the frequency this proposal would utilize is immediately adjacent to that used by GPS and the firm’s proposed land-based transmitters would vastly overpower GPS transmitters, thereby threatening to interrupt or otherwise “jam” GPS systems within their effective range.

The proposal represents a significant reallocation and disruption of a section of the spectrum that has been reserved for low-power uses and this action was not subject to Federal Rule-Making process, which would be typical for decisions with such far reaching implications. While the FCC’s conditional waiver requires LightSquared and the GPS Industry Council to form a working group to explore this issue and develop mitigations measures, the ACTC is submitting this Letter of Concern for consideration by the FCC and Congressional representatives.

Sincerely,

David Plank  
Chairman

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CC: Congressmen Lungren (R-CA); Senator Boxer (D-CA); Senator Feinstein (D-CA); Fred Upton (R-MI), Chair. U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce; Greg Walden (R-OR), Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Communications and Technology; Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; John Kerry (D-MA), Chair, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet; Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chair, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Aviation, Operations, Safety, and Security