

Tom Rukavina
State Representative

District 5A
Minnesota's Iron Range



Minnesota House of Representatives

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD

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June 30, 2011

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

Received & Inspected

JUL - 6 2011

FCC Mail Room

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

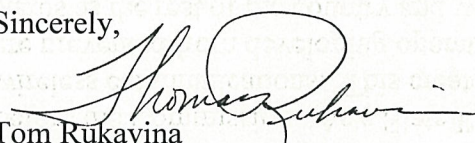
Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to encourage the Commission to approve LightSquared's request which is currently pending before the Commission. As a State Representative, I represent an area of Minnesota that has no reliable wireless communications. This creates barriers to economic development because high-tech industries are prevented from developing operations in rural Minnesota, relegating our communities to second-class status as the rest of the country and world races ahead in the Information Age. We need reliable and affordable wireless broadband to attract and retain high-paying high-tech jobs. The lack of reliable cell phone coverage also creates problems for law enforcement, EMS and firefighters. In the midst of an emergency they may need to communicate with law enforcement agencies, hospitals and doctors as well as individuals and the families of sick and injured persons. Our region's lack of cell phone coverage hinders their ability to do their jobs.

LightSquared appears to be a solution to this challenge. LightSquared's integrated nationwide satellite 4G network will allow universal cell-phone and internet connectivity throughout the entire United States. This will allow residents and visitors to our area to have access to cell phone and wireless Internet services. Concerns have been raised about how LightSquared's signal might affect GPS devices and aircraft, and their recent announcement that they will shift the location of their signal on the broadcast spectrum addresses 99.5% of these concerns. The GPS industry also bears responsibility for manufacturing devices that are not shielded from signals outside their authorized bandwidth.

Northeastern Minnesota needs jobs and economic growth. Our ability to grow jobs depends upon reliable communications and I urge you to move without delay on LightSquared's application.

Sincerely,


Tom Rukavina
State Representative

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