

## KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COURTHOUSE

715 4th Street
INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN 56649 Receive

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FCC Mail Room

July 7, 2011

District 1 Wade Pavleck P.O. Box 1253 Intl Falls, Mn 56649 218-286-5273

District 2 Kevin Adee 3176 Co. Rd. 24 Intl Falls, Mn 56649 218-283-2035

District 3 Brian McBride 2311 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East Intl Falls, Mn 56649 218-283-3613

District 4 Robert Ecklund 4647 Highway 11 Intl Falls, Mn 56649 218-283-9259

District 5 Michael Hanson 1740 Co. Rd. 86 N. Birchdale, MN 56629 218-634-1340 The Honorable AL Franken 309 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

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

508 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chip Cravaak

## 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.

Administration Office: Phone: 218-283-1152 Fax: 218-283-1151 Email: teresa.jaksa@co.koochiching.mn.us

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