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FCC Mail Room

FB Docket 11-109

**Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Of The County of Burlington  
MOUNT HOLLY, NEW JERSEY**



DEPARTMENT OF  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
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Mr. Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing on behalf of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders to express serious concerns regarding the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granting LightSquared, LLC conditional approval to build a nationwide 4G-LTE wireless broadband network (FCC File No. SAT-MOD-20101118-00239). Early testing by GPS technology leaders, Garmin and Trimble Navigation, demonstrated that LightSquared's technology would likely interfere with Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, degrading their performance in the best case scenario and completely jamming GPS receivers in the worst case scenario.

The Department of Defense, FAA, DHS, NASA, DOI, DOT, DOC, and the Professional Land Surveying and Engineering professions, have all expressed serious reservations in regards to this plan by LightSquared, LLC to build 40,000 ground stations in the U.S. that could cause widespread interference to GPS signals. This network of ground stations will transmit signals within the L-band frequency immediately adjacent to the GPS L1 frequency at more than one billion times the strength of the low-power GPS signal from space. Furthermore, each mobile phone using LightSquared's wireless service would potentially become a portable GPS jamming device by jamming GPS receivers in its immediate vicinity.

High-precision GPS equipment used by Land Surveyors and other geomatics professionals costing thousands of dollars per receiver would be more adversely affected than the consumer GPS devices given their inherent design. The County of Burlington, New Jersey currently has over \$60,000 invested in such GPS equipment. Literally, tens of thousands of high-precision GPS receivers are used in the United States. GPS technology has transformed the way we build and manage our infrastructure, adding a tremendous level of efficiency to the design, construction, and maintenance of roads, bridges, commercial properties, residential subdivisions, parks, farms, golf courses, etc. GPS has become an essential tool for design professionals and it is imperative that these GPS signals are not jeopardized by broadband technology.

This situation has the potential of becoming a tremendous public safety issue and an economical disaster not only for New Jersey, but also for the United States as a whole. I urge you to reject the LightSquared application until such time that all tests conclusively demonstrate there is no risk of interference.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Behmke  
Director of Information Technology  
County of Burlington, New Jersey

cc:

Kevin Tuno, Coordinator, Burlington County Emergency Management  
Joseph Brickley, County Engineer, Burlington County Department of Public Works  
Carl Buck, Solicitor, County of Burlington  
Merrilee Torres, GIS Specialist, County of Burlington  
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