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NORTH DAKOTA

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United States Senate

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
National Telecommunications &
Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Assistant Secretary Strickling:

Like many in the U.S. Senate, I expressed concern in 2011 about the potential GPS interference problems that could be posed by the planned rollout of the terrestrial broadband network planned by LightSquared. To your credit, once it was determined that technical issues could not be resolved, you decided not to allow LightSquared to use bandwidth adjacent to the GPS spectrum.

I do, however, believe that LightSquared's plan to build a nationwide network would benefit consumers if it can be done in a way that does not interfere with existing and important uses of spectrum. More competition lowers prices and leads to improved levels of service, which is especially important to rural states like North Dakota.

Because of this, I ask that you work to try to identify alternate spectrum that could be used by LightSquared to build such a broadband network. I am confident that a path toward this goal can be found that will satisfy all stakeholders, and advance the public interest.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD
United States Senate