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ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chairwoman Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Chairwoman
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554-0005

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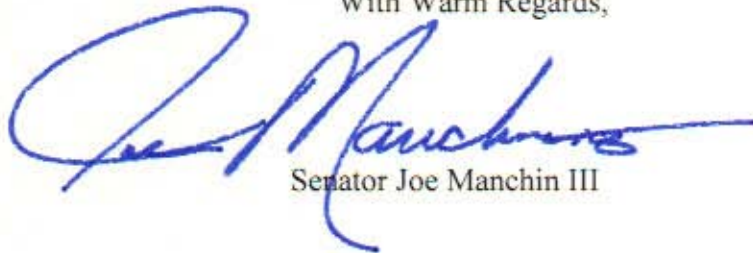
Dear Chairwoman Clyburn:

The wireless industry is a key economic driver for our country and for my state. However, with demand for mobile data projected to increase 50% annually for the next decade, it is critical that the Federal Communications Commission ensure that more spectrum capacity reaches the hands of consumers as quickly as possible to meet this demand. While freeing up more spectrum, the Commission should also ensure that consumers in every nook and cranny of this country have the opportunity to access faster, more reliable and more affordable mobile broadband.

A pragmatic short-term pathway for the Commission to increase competition and bring spectrum to market is by taking immediate action on its consideration of LightSquared's proposal to deploy a nationwide wireless broadband network. Not only would the company's proposal bring new mobile broadband spectrum online for Americans in the next few years, it would also generate significant competition within the wireless industry as competitive resellers and device manufacturers would be able to use LightSquared's spectrum capacity to provide customers with quality high-speed internet access at more affordable prices. The benefits of such competition and increased spectrum to consumers cannot be understated – especially to my West Virginia constituents.

It has been more than nine months since the company has proposed bringing stakeholders together in an effort to find a consensus that will allow the deployment of a new next generation broadband network. Given the public interest in averting a spectrum crunch and increasing consumer-oriented competition in the wireless industry, I strongly urge you to work with LightSquared and other stakeholders in taking immediate action on this proposal. Please contact a member of my staff, Kirtan Mehta, at 202-224-3528 or kirtan_mehta@manchin.senate.gov if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and I look forward to your favorable response.

With Warm Regards,



Senator Joe Manchin III