

If your career or livelihood is impacted by GPS in any form, please read below...!

As many of you are already aware, over the last 6 months a company called LightSquared has been putting efforts in to deploy a terrestrial-based system that would provide broadband internet across all of America. Recent FCC-mandated testing by an industry Technical Working Group has shown massive interference to nearly all GPS receivers tested during test broadcasts on LightSquared's frequencies. This means that if the FCC approves LightSquared's system, many of the receivers used in precision ag operations will be rendered inoperable.

LightSquared has responded with a recommendation to the FCC proposing minor changes to their plans to mitigate the interference, but offer no supporting technical data. They are clearly trying to convince the FCC that there won't be a problem without having to prove that their claims are true. They are attempting to use public relations tactics to overcome opposing arguments that are based on known facts, such as the laws of physics and the current state of the art of electronics technology.

The MSS band was never intended for use as a ground network, because the signals from ground stations are billions of times more powerful than the signals from satellites, and would cause massive interference with equipment designed to receive satellite signals in the MSS band. Essentially all of the high-precision GPS receivers used in Agriculture, Surveying, Construction and other industries requiring precise positioning, are designed to receive differential correction signals from satellites operating in the MSS band. LightSquared is trying to blame the GPS manufacturers for designing products to use signals in the MSS band, yet LightSquared owns satellites which broadcast some of these GPS correction signals. The GPS manufacturers had to design to receive signals in the MSS band, and did so believing that the purpose of this band would always be for signals broadcast from satellites, not ground stations.

The economic benefits of the Civilian GPS industry in the US is over \$100 billion per year. If LightSquared is allowed to proceed to deploy their ground network, a significant amount of this benefit will be lost by making a vast majority of the high-accuracy GPS receivers either totally non-functional, or not accurate enough to perform their intended purposes.

In this email, we are asking that you act to help stop this threat to our Agricultural industry. This situation has become dire and should be taken very seriously. Please contact your Congressional Representatives and Senators to voice your concerns about GPS interference. You can send letters, emails, faxes, call or visit your Congressional Representatives' or Senators' office in person to explain how you use GPS as a local business and what the impacts of interference would be to the local economy. We would encourage you to contact your customers and inform them of this threat and ask them to help as well.

To learn more about this situation, feel free to visit <http://www.saveourgps.org/>. Ag Leader has joined many other industry leaders to form a coalition to help fight this threat in our nation's capital. It is essential we make our voices heard to protect our GPS and retain all the benefits it has brought to our businesses and our customers.

Write Your Representative

Ask your member of congress to support and co-sign the attached letter from Congressman Neugebauer (R-TX) and Austria (R-OH).

 [66 Congressman Co-Sign Neugebauer and \(R-TX\) and Austria \(R-OH\)](#)

[Find Your U.S. House of Representatives](#)

Contact Your Senator

Ask your Senator to support and co-sign the attached letter from Senators Roberts (R-KS) and Nelson (D-NE): explain how you use GPS in your state and what impact interference or any compromise of the GPS service would have on you and the local economy.

 [33 Senators Co-Sign Roberts \(R-KS\) and Nelson \(D-NE\) Letter](#)

[Find Your Local Senator](#)

Send your comments directly to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Background

In January, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) conditionally allowed a company called LightSquared to offer wireless broadband services in radio frequency bands adjacent to those used by GPS receivers. Based on feedback from public and private sector GPS users, the FCC told LightSquared that it could not launch service until testing could be completed to determine the extent of the problems that LightSquared would cause. The report of that testing was submitted to the FCC on June 30, 2011 and it showed that there would be massive interference to GPS from LightSquared's proposed operations. The FCC has asked for feedback from the public on the report.

What can I do?

Everyone who cares about GPS should let the FCC and your elected officials know about the threat that LightSquared poses. In writing, you should cover the following points:

- How you use GPS technology in your business and/or personal life
- What would happen to your business/personal life if GPS became unavailable or unreliable
- While more capacity for wireless broadband services is important, it should not come at the expense of GPS, which is critical to our country's economy
- The results of the testing that were performed at the FCC's request are conclusive - they show that GPS reception would be wiped out by LightSquared's proposed service.
- Now that the test results have shown interference to GPS, the FCC shouldn't allow LightSquared to keep trying out modified versions of its plan to use the spectrum near the GPS band. LightSquared's operations and GPS are fundamentally incompatible and the FCC should order LightSquared out of that band.

How do I tell the FCC to save GPS?

The FCC has an easy-to-use portal on its website to submit feedback on the testing results:

In order to submit a letter regarding the LightSquared Subsidiary LLC modification request being processed by the International Bureau, follow these steps:

1. Go to the FCC International Bureau Electronic Filing System (IBFS): <http://licensing.fcc.gov/myibfs/pleading.do> and fill in the requested information. Pleading type is a drop down menu. The selection of "letter" is most likely the correct one; "ex parte presentation notification letter" is used to report a prior oral ex parte meeting, and would not be correct here. Keep "no" checked on the "confidential information" line. Please note that there is no need to have or use an FCC Registration Number (FRN). The sender should fill out the information fields; there is no need to fill out the "Contact Information" field if the sender is posting directly.
2. When this form is complete, hit "Next Step" and you will be directed to a page requesting the FCC file number for the LightSquared modification (SAT-MOD-20101118-00239). Copy and paste the complete file number in the box. Click "Add File Numbers to Pleading List" and then check the box in the row that appears with the file number. Click "Next Step".
3. The next step is to upload your letter. Click the icon under "Replace/Attach" and proceed to fill out the description of the letter and follow the upload instructions. The letter should be in pdf format.
4. Click "Submit" after the letter is uploaded. You will receive an electronic confirmation that you can print and retain for your files.

We highly encourage you to contact your customer base and inform them of this threat and ask for their help. Comments to the FCC are being accepted until July 30 so time is limited. Also make contact with your elected officials. It is important our voices are heard and understood as failure to do so could lead to the loss of quality GPS and the economic and environmental benefits we gain from it.

Regards,

Mike Olson
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