



News Release

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U.S. Potato Growers Applaud FCC's Decision to Block Encroachment on GPS

Washington, D.C. – The following statement is from Steve Crane, President of the National Potato Council (NPC) and owner of Crane Brothers, Inc., a potato growing operation in Exeter, Maine, on yesterday's announcement that the Federal Communications Commission has blocked LightSquared's proposed nationwide wireless network:

“National Potato Council and its industry allies support the expansion and availability of low-cost rural broadband service, but not at the expense of the high-precision Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies relied upon by America's farmers. As such, NPC is pleased that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has moved to block LightSquared's planned nationwide rural wireless network over concerns that it cannot coexist with existing global positioning systems.

“Increased broadband access will drive improvements in economic development, education and health services in rural America. NPC and its partners will continue to work with the FCC to ensure that accurate GPS technology will continue to be available for precision agriculture while supporting for the expansion of broadband access to benefit all of rural America.”

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The National Potato Council is the advocate for the economic well-being of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental, and trade issues. Potato growers, along with the U.S. potato industry as a whole, directly benefit from involvement in the National Potato Council. NPC supports the U.S. potato industry by monitoring issues affecting the strength and viability of the potato industry, influencing regulators and legislators on issues crucial to the industry's long term success, ensuring fair market access for potatoes and potato products, and bringing the unique issues and interests of diverse growing regions in the U.S. together on a national level. The National Potato Council is a voluntary organization supported by quota assessments from state organizations, allied industry memberships and sponsorships, and directly by potato growers through membership dues.