

LightSquared Disrupts Plane Safety Gear In Tests

by John Peterson
LICA Director of Government Relations
17 DEC 2011/jwp

In the ongoing saga of LightSquared, I found an interesting article by *Bloomberg* on Dec. 16th that had this to say. "Billionaire Phillip Falcone's LightSquared wireless service (I didn't know Falcone was the owner) disrupted safety equipment that uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) to help keep airliners from crashing into the ground. U.S. Officials said.

U.S. officials are testing for interference with GPS devices as they consider whether to let LightSquared operate the network.

CEO Sanjiv Ahuja (the fellow I thought owned the company) said the Reston, VA-based Company will work with the Federal Aviation Administration on resolving interference."

I guess all the problems haven't yet been worked out. This problem will affect many LICA members if it is not resolved. Stay tuned.

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The NLICA NEWS

Vol. 18, No. 1

The Nebraska Land Improvement Contractors Association

January 2012

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!
WISHING EVERYONE A PROSPEROUS 2012!**

THANK YOU ASSOCIATES!

The NLICA Board of Directors would like to express their appreciation to the following associate members who so generously supported our 53rd annual convention. We ask all members to patronize these businesses throughout the year.

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 7-12, 2012
National LICA Convention
Doubletree Hotel Downtown
San Diego, California

March 10, 2012
NLICA Board of Directors Meeting
Location - TBD

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Membership Drive

**Live
In
Constant
Alert**

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

The NLICA Board of Directors cordially welcomes the following new member:

CONTRACTOR

Fleischman Farms • Jake Fleischman • Elmwood, Nebraska
Rick Bruns Construction • Rick Bruns • Avoca, Nebraska

Thanks to Harry Hauschild for all of his recruitment work for NLICA.
He is already a winner in the National LICA membership drive!



The *Nebraska LICA News* is the official Publication of the Nebraska Land Improvement Contractors Association, dedicated to the professional conservation of soil and water.

Publisher
Publication Printing of Nebraska, Inc.

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Patti McArdle

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www.nelica.org

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NLICA members,

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

It's hard to think about convention with everything else going on. Thankfully my wife Mary keeps me up to date with the emails from Patti. They are both a great help to me. The convention will be over by the time you receive this newsletter. I know it will be a success and everyone will enjoy themselves. The weather may play a factor in attendance, but people can't get there in a snowstorm and want to work when the weather is as nice as it is right now. Can't blame them. A Catch 22 situation - but we do live in Nebraska and we never know what kind of winter we're going to get.

Also would like to remind you that the 2012 National LICA convention in San Diego, CA is February 7-12, 2012. I believe several people from our chapter are attending. It would make a good winter get-away.

- Jim Wemhoff

SAFETY ALERT

**Cell Phone Use Banned for Commercial Drivers
New rule goes into effect January 3, 2012**

The Department of Transportation has issued a new rule banning hand-held cell phone use by commercial drivers. The new rule, which goes into effect January 3, 2102, carries stiff penalties for talking on a cell phone or texting while driving and could also penalize companies that allow their drivers to use hand-held cell phones. The new rule prohibits commercial drivers from:

- 1) Reaching for or holding a mobile device while operating their vehicle.
- 2) Dialing or answering any device that requires the pushing of more than one button.
- 3) Using a hand-held device while stopped in traffic or stopped at a traffic light.

The use of a hands-free device is allowed but only if the hands-free headset is within reach while the driver is restrained by a seat belt in the driver's seat. Dialing a hands-free device is permitted only if it can be done with the push of a single button.

Drivers who violate the new rule face federal civil penalties of up to \$2,750 for each offense and the suspension of their commercial license for multiple offenses. Truck and bus companies that allow their drivers to use hand-held cell phones while driving face a maximum penalty of \$11,000.

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WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT FOR JANUARY 6, 2012

HAPPENINGS IN THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE THIS WEEK

The 102nd, second session of the Nebraska Legislature convened on Wednesday January 4th to begin the 2012 legislative session. Lawmakers are scheduled to conclude this 60 day session on April 14th.

Being the second session of the 102nd Legislature, the Speaker will remain Senator Mike Flood of Norfolk and committee assignment will remain the same with the exception of changes warranted by the resignation of Senator Dave Pankonin of Louisville October 7, 2011 and the passing of Senator Dennis Utter of Hastings.

Senator Pankonin served on Health and Human Services Committee; the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee; the Revenue Committee and was chairman of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee from 2009-10.

Governor Heineman appointed R. Paul Lambert to the district 2 seat. Senator Lambert will serve until January 8, 2013 and will be up for re-election in the fall of 2013. Senator Lambert currently serves on the General Affairs Committee, Health and Human Services Committee; the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee and the Urban Affairs Committee.

Senator Utter served on the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee and as vice chairperson of the Revenue Committee. Governor Heineman will take letters of interest in the district 33 seat until January 13th and will appoint someone to serve shortly thereafter. When the appointment of this vacant seat is fulfilled committee assignments will be adjusted and a new listing of committee assignments will be included in the weekly update.

Speaker Flood made the following announcements concerning the Legislative Schedule:

- Bill introduction, which takes place during the first ten days of each session, will continue through January 19th.
- January 9th - Speaker will begin accepting committee and senator priority bill designation. (no preference will be given priority bill order based on the date of its designation).

- January 10th - begin floor debate on 2011 carryover bills
- January 12th - Governor's State of the State Address at 10:00 AM
- January 13th (recess day) - last day to submit bill request to Revisor of Statutes/Bill Drafting Office
- January 17th - Committee hearings begin at 1:30 PM, and run through February 24th (tentative)
- January 19th - Chief Justice Heavican's State of the Judiciary Address at 10:00 AM - LAST DAY OF BILL INTRODUCTION
- February 6th - Speaker's office will begin accepting request for Speaker priority designation
- February 15th - deadline to submit a request to have a bill designated as a Speaker priority bill
- February 16th - deadline for designation of committee and senator priority bills
- February 21st - Speaker priority bills will be announced
- February 27th - tentative date to begin all day floor debate

Additionally, please note that we will begin the first day of the work week at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise announced. The remaining days of the week we will convene session at 9:00 a.m.

Bills introduced in the 2012 session that have a potential impact on NLICA members:

Bill Number	Introducer	On Liner
LB798	Urban Affairs Committee	Provide that certain assessments are levied and collected as special assessments
LB846	Sullivan	Require employers to maintain employee emergency contact information
LR358CA	Carlson	Constitutional amendment to change legislative term limits to three terms