

City of Farmington

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August 8, 2000

RECEIVED

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455-12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Ultra-wideband
ET Docket 98-153 /

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on ultra wideband radio. I am the Director of the Public Safety Department for the City of Farmington, Michigan. Our mission is to provide police, fire and emergency medical response to the members of our community. I have been in the Law Enforcement Field for thirty years and before this I was a Radio Relay technician in the United States Marine Corps.

Within the law enforcement and firefighting fields, communications is critical. Quite literally, it often means the difference between life and death. It is frustrating in this age of technology to be impeded by communications equipment that cannot transmit through the wall of a building or out of a basement of a residence. The instances where our dispatchers lose contact with our officers during critical instances happen daily. I recall an instance when our department was fighting a fire that enveloped a large laundromat and a restaurant. The winds were averaging sixty miles an hour (a firefighters nightmare). My units were upwind fighting the blaze as I worked my way to the downwind side of the fire stepping over downed live power lines. Once there, I realized that the residences downwind of the fire were exposed. Try as I might, my portable radio could not reach the officers through the buildings. I began banging on doors to evacuate the residents, but I could not reach my units to position them to protect their homes.

Also, there is the issue of security. We have encountered burglars and robbers, who routinely monitor our transmissions. As we develop new technology, i.e., radar, there seems to be someone who is willing to thwart it for a price, i.e., radar detectors. The time has come to move forward and help those whose mission it is to protect our neighbors.

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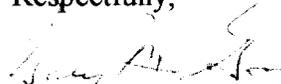
Ultra-wideband cont.

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I ask that the FCC reach a decision on technical matters that will permit deployment of the technology to achieve maximum performance so that my department and others like us can take advantage of the benefits ultra-wideband has to offer. Critical in this decision making is to have reasonable regulation to prevent harmful interference to critical public safety communications systems.

I thank you in advance for your consideration. Those of us in public safety can use your help. I urge the FCC to take prompt action on this issue.

Respectfully,



Gary M. Goss
Public Safety Director