

# IBERIA PARISH COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.

722 WALTON STREET  
NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA 70560  
TELEPHONE: (337) 367-1556 or (337) 367-1557  
FAX (337) 367-0130

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August 28, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

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. As the executive director of Iberia Parish Council on Aging, I can see how this ultra-wideband radio would be very beneficial to the elderly of our parish.

According to the 1990 Census, Iberia Parish has a total of 9,627 elderly residents over the age of 60. Of these residents, 2,100 are considered below the poverty level, while 7,037 are above this level. Many of these elderly, 2,322 persons, according to the census, are living alone. Several of these elderly have limitations; 699 have mobility limitations, while 521 have self-care limitations. There are 661 elderly in this parish who have both mobility and self-care limitations.

As we age, our memory, response time, and balance are affected. These signs of aging can be life threatening. Many times things are left cooking on the stove and then forgotten, resulting in a fire. Another example involved one of our drivers who delivered a meal to a woman on Friday and when she returned on Monday to deliver the meal, found the woman had fallen in the bathtub and had stayed there all weekend. An ultra-wideband radio would have alerted the proper authorities to send help to this woman. Another one of our elderly citizens fell over a floor heater and couldn't get up. She burned her stomach; however, she ended up dying from these injuries. This system could have possibly saved her life.

We therefore ask you, on behalf of the senior citizens that we service, to promptly make a decision to approve this device. What we offer our citizens can only help if they or someone near them can push the button to alert the proper authorities; but they have to be conscious or wearing the equipment to do this. Having a system that will automatically notify officials that a problem exists can only serve to better the lives of our elderly citizens. With the number of elderly in our parish, I can see the benefit of having an ultra-wideband radio available to them.

If this ultra-wideband system were approved, we would definitely consider the program for our elderly.

Sincerely,

*Margaret D. Trahan*

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Executive Director

MDT/chw

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