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August 10, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 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 (UWB) radio. I am also writing as a private citizen but my career is what motivates me. This is because I am a scientist employed by the federal government with long and extensive experience with the internet. I was at UCLA when the technology was developed there in 1969 that enabled the internet. I was in government labs in Colorado where we used the early version of the internet (ARPANET) to transfer our data. Then I came to laboratories in Alabama where the first truly interactive uses of the internet were being developed and supported. Today I spend a great deal of my time connected to the internet interacting with colleagues around the world. This experience focuses my attention on anything that will make the internet more useable. UWB technology has demonstrated the ability to do this.

The specific application which I think will displace existing technology and change the appearance of my office is UWB use as a solution for the wireless network. My office now looks like a rats nest with cables draped and looped everywhere. These cables can be largely eliminated with wireless intra-office communications. There are existing wireless office systems but they are severely limited in bandwidth, especially with large numbers of users, and hardly better than telephone modems. Since I deal with massive amounts of data and there are more than 100 people in my laboratory, existing systems are not a solution. UWB is a solution and it will also be easy to deploy. As an example, we are presently moving to a new building and it is costing us \$1M to put in just the wiring for telephone and computer communications, excluding the computers and other hardware. The cost of installing UWB internal communications would just be for the hardware alone.

The same technology that permits the wireless office enables wireless homes. Few homes are wired for television cable and internet while demand for this product is rapidly growing. Wireless communications completely removes the wiring requirement for new homes and greatly simplifies installation in existing homes. This is a perfect solution for the consumer.

I look forward to the day when I will be able to roam my office and home with a laptop and not have to keep changing a complicated internet connection. I also look forward to being able to move my TV from room to room in my home without having to figure out where and how to connect to the cable.

UWB offers great cost and technological advantages over existing systems and I urge the FCC to move forward to promptly approve its use, permitting deployment and the benefits that will go with it.

Sincerely,

  
Steven T. Suess

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