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August 31, 2000

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

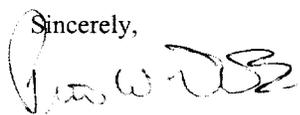
RE: Ultra-wideband  
ET Docket 98-153 ✓

Dear Ms. Salas;

I am an assistant fire chief here in Massachusetts, and I am writing in support of the FCC's approval of the UWB rulemaking.

Although the overall "gee whiz" could solve some very high tech problems such as in search and rescue and the location of victims, I feel that there are far more fundamental problems that could be solved. Many public safety departments currently experience poor radio reception when in and around multistory buildings of steel and concrete construction.

The technology would reduce or hopefully eliminate those shortcomings of conventional radio technologies. It would also enable the incident commander to locate his personnel within the building. The advantages for public safety personnel are obvious. I was also informed that the only known interference is to GPS receivers within 5 feet or so of the transmitters. Since this distance is far within the resolution of current GPS and the user would be within sight and speaking distance of the receiver, I doubt that the effect would even cause a minor disadvantage. I encourage you to approve their application for waiver.

Sincerely,  


Peter W. Torode  
Assistant Fire Chief

(revised copy)

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