

Comment - Docket 98-153



LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

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RECEIVED

September 12, 2000

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN
General President

The Honorable Magalie Roman Salas
Federal Communications Commission
455-12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

CARL E. BOOKER
General Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Ms. Salas:

Vice Presidents:

The Laborers' International Union of North America represents over 800,000 workers primarily in the construction industry. I write to you to express our support for the FCC's consideration to allow ultra-wideband (UWB) radio technologies. Our members perform a number of construction and specialty tasks that would benefit from UWB technologies. This technology would greatly enhance their safety and productivity.

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Some of the work our members engage in includes the installation, maintenance and repair of underground utilities of all types. UWB-equipped ground penetrating radar would greatly enhance the ability to passively identify underground utilities and prevent accidental damage when workers must excavate.

Our members work in a number of hazardous occupations including environmental remediation of Superfund sites, removal and disposal of unexploded ordinance and decommissioning nuclear facilities, both civilian and our nation's nuclear weapons facilities. While our members are well trained, by their very nature these worksites have the potential to be quite dangerous. This work requires close cooperation with emergency response officials. UWB would enable a more rapid emergency response to any one of a number of potential hazards and would enhance the safety of workers and communities.

MICHAEL S. BEARSE
General Counsel

The potential for improved safety and communications is, we believe, but the beginning of the contribution UWB technology can make in our industry and many others. I urge the FCC to move promptly to assure that this technology's full benefits can be realized.

Sincerely,

TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN
GENERAL PRESIDENT

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