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Department of Communications  
United States Catholic Conference

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 27, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12th St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

REF: Revision of Part 15 of the Commission's  
Rules Regarding Ultra-Wideband  
Transmissions Systems  
ET Docket No. 98-153

Dear Ms. Salas:

These reply comments are filed on behalf of the United States Catholic Conference ("USCC") in response to the letter comments filed by the National Catholic Educational Association ("NCEA") regarding the above-captioned Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, released May 10, 2000.

The USCC is a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia whose members are the active Catholic Bishops of the United States. The USCC advocates and promotes the pastoral teachings of the Bishops in such diverse areas as education, social welfare, immigration, civil rights, family life, social welfare and communications.

In its Notice, the Commission requested broad comment, inter alia, on the potential consumer benefits of ultra-wide band transmissions systems. USCC joins NCEA in supporting the Commission's efforts to promote development of ultra-wideband local networking in a manner which ensures no unacceptable interference to existing spectrum uses.

The potential of ultra-wideband ("UWB") to offer local wireless networking promises to benefit Catholic and independent schools, and social service providers is of particular interest to USCC. UWB may be able to provide low-cost, high-speed unlicensed wireless devices for local area networking. For schools and social service providers with limited budgets for such networking, a low cost alternative to wiring schools and providers' buildings is an important benefit. Inexpensive wireless devices for local area networking is of particular interest to schools and

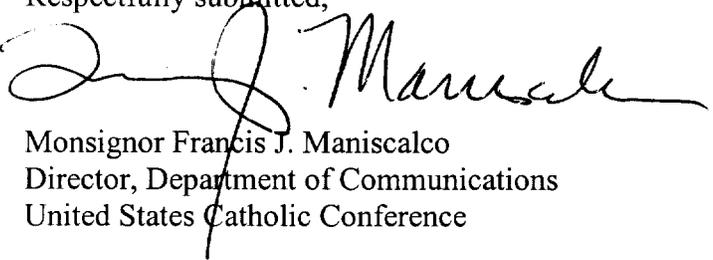
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social service providers working within older buildings with substantial construction barriers to installing wires for networks, such as asbestos removal difficulties.

USCC supports the Commission's decision to exercise caution as it permits the deployment of some UWB technologies because of the potential for interference with existing spectrum uses. USCC supports the Commission's decision to proceed with UWB deployment above 2 GHz, a portion of the spectrum in which the Commission has tentatively concluded that deployment of UWB will not create harmful interference with existing spectrum users. We urge the Commission to proceed as it has outlined in its Notice, by continuing to move forward to permit UWB devices to operate above 2 GHz, while being mindful of the need to protect existing users from unacceptable interference.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. J. Maniscalco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "J".

Monsignor Francis J. Maniscalco  
Director, Department of Communications  
United States Catholic Conference