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25 October 2000 FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ultra-Wideband (UWB) radio transmission (Docket 98-153)

Dear Ms. Salas:

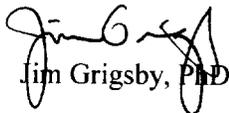
I am writing concerning the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding UWB radio transmission. I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, where I have worked as a research scientist for the past 8 or 9 years on issues related to telehealth and informatics.

I am very interested in the potential importance of UWB, the network applications of which have the potential to contribute significantly to the proliferation and growth of telehealth across the United States. The technology would offer relatively low cost, high speed connections for LANs, something that could be especially helpful for smaller, rural health care facilities. The wireless UWB technology could be used to transmit large data files of various sorts—including telehealth consultation, electronic patient records, and other health care information—without the great expense of cable installation and its attendant infrastructural modification. The often excessive costs of implementing and sustaining telemedicine and telehealth programs has been a barrier to the expansion of health care access this technology can provide. The availability of UWB transmission for these service providers could be quite beneficial in this regard.

It is true that concerns have been raised regarding the possible interference of UWB signals with other transmissions, such as the global positioning system navigational devices in aircraft. Some caution in these matters is reasonable and justifiable until the matter is definitively settled. Nevertheless, I encourage the FCC to proceed with the expansion of use of these technologies, as the agency may already have concluded is appropriate with applications operating—apparently with no threat to public safety—above 2 GHz.

I strongly encourage the FCC to take these factors into serious consideration in its rule making activity.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Grigsby, PhD

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