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William J. Moloney
Commissioner of Education
Richard G. Elmer
Deputy Commissioner

October 26, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary, FCC
455 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Salas:

Re: Ultra-Wideband (ET Docket 98-153)

I am writing on behalf of the Colorado State Library in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on ultra-wideband radio. Colorado believes this technology has tremendous potential for libraries, allowing the fast and flexible networking of buildings at relatively low costs.

Ultra-wideband's local wireless networking potential is of particular interest to libraries in rural areas. UWB has the potential to provide low-cost, high-speed, unlicensed wireless devices for local area networking. This technology holds tremendous potential for thousands of libraries around the country which are located in older buildings (such as the traditional Carnegie libraries) where traditional wired networking is either impossible, extremely expensive, and/or poses health risks from asbestos and other factors. A wireless local area networking alternative like UWB, would be both cost-effective and easy to set up, making it perfect for these otherwise difficult to serve locations. It will make for more efficient use of e-rate.

We understand that some applications of UWB technologies may pose minimal levels of interference with certain public safety signals, such as those used in GPS in airplanes. We urge the FCC to move forward judiciously in dealing with those applications. However, it is apparent that some devices which operate above 2 GHz - including UWB local area networking technologies - do not threaten to interfere with existing wireless technologies. We strongly urge the Commission to move forward in licensing UWB and certifying UWB products and making them widely available to schools/libraries throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Nancy M. Bolt
Assistant Commissioner for Libraries
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