

RECEIVED

NOV 14 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM



ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State Library of North Carolina
Administration and Library Development

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor
Betty Ray McCain, Secretary

Sandra M. Cooper, State Librarian

November 2, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ultra-Wideband, ET Docket 98-153

Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of the public library community in North Carolina I am writing in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on ultra-wideband radio. This technology has the potential to improve dramatically the ability of libraries to provide information access to many communities that are not well served by existing, cumbersome and expensive LAN wiring technologies.

Owing to community circumstances many public libraries are located in older buildings that present significant difficulties for the implementation of current wired networks. Thick structural supports, plaster walls and ceilings, and asbestos hazards are only a few of the numerous barriers that increase the complexity and expense of wiring these buildings. Even with the assistance of E-rate funds, many libraries cannot afford the necessary construction and renovations required to wire their buildings for a traditional LAN. As libraries expand to serve their communities, they must often offer additional services in buildings which, while newer, were not designed as libraries and thus still present considerable implementation issues. And each time a library relocates to serve its community better, all wiring work must be done again, leading to repetitive expense.

Ultra-wideband technology could offer an immense benefit to libraries facing these issues. Wireless local area networks using UWB would be cost-effective and easier to set up, allowing libraries to provide better information access by circumventing the often unmanageable problems presented by traditional wiring. Inside the library building, workstations could be placed where they are needed rather than where the constraints of network wiring require them to be. In addition, a UWB network would be transportable and could move with the library to any new location without the need for additional wiring or renovations at the new site.

I understand that some UWB applications may pose a slight risk of interference with certain public safety uses of frequencies below 2 GHz. However, it appears that deployment of UWB technologies operating above the 2GHz band will not threaten existing wireless technologies. I therefore strongly encourage the Commission to move forward in licensing UWB and certifying UWB products so that they can be made widely available to libraries, schools and communities across the country.

Sincerely,

Sandra M. Cooper
Sandra M. Cooper
State Librarian

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

SMC:ch

MAILING:
4640 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4640

Telephone: (919) 733-2570
Fax Number: (919) 733-8748

LOCATION:
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, NC

