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February 8, 2001

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

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Re: Ultra-Wideband, ET Docket 98-153

Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of The Disability Network, I am writing to urge the Commission to move forward without delay in approving the use of the spectrum above 2 Ghz for communications systems involving Ultra-wideband (UWB), low-power, short-range technology. This technology has the potential to enhance independent living for persons with disabilities by making local area networking (LAN) easier and more affordable through high-capacity, low cost wireless networking.

We also ask the Commission to urge the developers of UWB technologies to consider the needs of persons with disabilities as products using this technology are brought to market. Many technologies have developed over the years which had the potential to dramatically enhance the lives of persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, many of these technologies failed to assure basic disability access in the early stages of planning.

I understand there are concerns about UWB products causing interference with existing spectrum uses. While these concerns need to be addressed we urge the Commission to move forward as expeditiously as possible to make UWB technology above the 2 Ghz level available to the public.

Sincerely,

Mike Zelle
Executive Director

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