



August 26, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: ET Docket 98-153

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of its members, the Satellite Industry Association is writing to urge that the Commission conduct open and transparent testing to evaluate the potential interference that Ultrawideband ("UWB") operations may cause other radio services.

As you know, earlier this year the Commission released its First Report and Order ("Order") in ET Docket 98-153 that permits the marketing and operation of certain types of new products incorporating UWB technology. The Order included technical rules designed to ensure that incumbent and planned radio services -- particularly safety services -- would not adversely be affected by UWB operations. Several SIA members filed Petitions for Reconsideration of the Commission's Order, arguing that the technical rules set forth in the Order should be modified because they do not adequately protect existing services.

We understand that the Commission may be preparing to conduct tests to evaluate the potential for interference from UWB operations, in order to determine whether to modify the technical rules set forth in the Order. The SIA agrees that such tests can greatly assist the Commission by providing the agency with real-world data to evaluate. It is critical, however, that the tests be conducted in an open and transparent manner, with input from the private sector. This will help focus the tests and any revisions based on the test results on issues that have been identified as of concern to affected services. It is also critical that the Commission conduct its announced review of the technical rules it established in the Order only after evaluating the results of its tests and any comments thereon.

As several of our members have stated in their individual filings, we stand ready to assist the Commission and its staff with any tests by providing technical support and advice as well as facilitating access to our members' equipment and facilities. Please do not hesitate to contact the SIA if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard DalBello". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Richard DalBello
President