



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
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The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications
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Washington, DC 20554

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International Municipal Signal Association
National Association of State Foresters
National Association of State Telecommunications Directors

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Network • US Department of Agriculture • US Department of
Interior

February 4, 2002

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

RE: Ex Parte Communication in ET Docket 98-153

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) is a coalition of public safety associations with representatives from local, state and federal government. We are writing to express serious concerns regarding the potential for Ultra wideband (UWB) operations in bands below 6 GHz, as discussed in ET Docket 98-153. While some proposed UWB applications will be useful for public safety agencies, a major concern is that widespread unrestricted deployment of commercial UWB devices could cause harmful interference to public safety radio systems and to critical GPS-based technologies used by public safety personnel and to locate emergencies.

NPSTC is particularly concerned with uncontrolled, unpredictable UWB operations in indoor settings. Within buildings, low power portable public safety radios (all of which operate below 1 GHz) may be susceptible to signal degradation caused by increased noise levels produced by UWB devices. As the Commission is fully aware, 800 MHz band radios are already facing interference from other adjacent channel commercial systems using cellular architecture.

NPSTC is in support of the ex-parte comments filed by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, Intl. (APCO) and defer to the information submitted by NTIA and others regarding the possible harmful effects of UWB transmission on GPS signals. With the implementation of Phase II technologies to locate wireless emergency calls to 9-1-1, we are concerned that UWB deployment may cause harmful interference to the GPS signals used to provide necessary accuracy. We are concerned, therefore, that such accuracy could be compromised as a result of the UWB deployment.

As a result, the NPSTC urges the Commission to proceed with great caution in its consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Ward
Marilyn Ward

Chair