

SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS

February 12, 2003

RE: Revision of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Ultra-Wideband Transmission Systems, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ET Docket No. 98-153)

Ultra-wideband ("UWB") technologies have made great progress over the year since our First Report & Order. I have confidence that, given the proper regulatory climate, the companies that are bringing this technology to consumers will make even more progress in the year to come.

Today's decision should be seen as a reaffirmation that UWB is here to stay. I hope soon to see firemen and policemen benefit from new safety devices, drivers find greater safety with automotive radar systems, and home electronics owners connect their computers, stereos, and other devices with UWB home networks. And while I hope we have no reason to ever use UWB to assist search-and-rescue teams in a disaster, I'll be glad that we have this tool available should the need arise. As UWB devices are brought to market, the FCC will test them and be alert for interference complaints – but today's continued conservative approach should minimize interference problems.

I congratulate OET for its hard work on this item.