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March 31, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex parte* presentation of the American Hospital Association Task Force on
Medical Telemetry, ET Docket No. 99-255

Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter serves as notification that on March 30, 2000, Mary Beth Savory Taylor of the American Hospital Association, Carolyn Campbell of the Washington Hospital Center, Stephen Juett of the Baylor University Medical Center, Stephen Hannah and Scott Carter of Vitalcom, Inc., Jonathan Weil of Agilent Technologies, and Kathleen Abernathy and Larry Movshin of Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP, (all of whom were representing the American Hospital Association Task Force on Medical Telemetry "AHA Task Force") met with Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Tom Sugrue and members of his staff; Office of Engineering Chief Dale Hatfield and members of his staff; and Ari Fitzgerald, Legal Assistant the Chairman, to discuss issues in the above-referenced proceeding. A summary of the issues discussed, all of which are embodied in the AHA Task Force pleadings in this proceeding, is attached to this notification.

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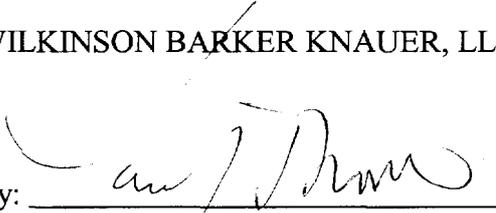
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Pursuant to Section 1.1206(a) of the Commission rules, an original and one copy of this letter are being filed with your office to be associated with the file in the above-captioned proceeding, and being sent to each of the FCC staff members with whom we met.

Sincerely,

WILKINSON BARKER KNAUER, LLP

By: 

Lawrence J. Movshin
Counsel for the American Hospital
Association Task Force on Medical Telemetry

cc: Ari Fitzgerald
Thomas Sugrue
Kathleen Ham
Mark Rubin
Herb Zeiler
Jeanne Kowalski
Dale Hatfield
Julius Knapp
Hugh Van Tuyl

Wireless Medical Telemetry Services
ET Docket No. 99-255

Ex Parte Presentation of the
American Hospital Association Task Force
On Medical Telemetry
March 30, 2000

1. **INTERFERENCE:** In February 1998, a TV station in Texas began test digital operations on a previously unused channel causing severe interference to medical telemetry equipment at a nearby hospital.
2. **INDUSTRY RESPONSE:** AHA created the Task Force in 1998 to study and make recommendations concerning the growing problem of interference to biomedical telemetry devices from licensed radio services.

The Task Force submitted its report and recommendations for new spectrum allocations to the FCC in April 1999.
3. **FCC RESPONSE:** The FCC issued NPRM July 16, 1999, proposing allocating a minimum of 14 MHz to WMTS, but in different bands than proposed by the Task Force.
4. **TASK FORCE POSITION:** The Wireless Medical Telemetry industry, including hospitals, engineering experts and manufacturers have demonstrated a need for a substantial allocation of spectrum to satisfy critical care patient needs today and in the foreseeable future. The proposed 14 MHz of spectrum, divided between the 600 MHz and 1400 MHz bands, is capable of satisfying that demand, and should be promptly allocated as proposed in the NPRM, with a regulatory structure for the new Wireless Medical Telemetry Service also promptly adopted.
5. **SPECIFIC PROPOSALS:** 608-614 MHz endorsed by all parties, but not available to hospitals in all geographic areas (due to digital TV and radio astronomy). 1.4 GHz band allocation opposed by Little LEOs; concerns expressed by Itron regarding sharing of 1427-1432 MHz band. The new Wireless Medical Telemetry Service has also engendered widespread support.
6. **TRANSITION:** A reasonable transition period to move existing medical telemetry systems is required, which recognizes the development time needed to utilize the newly allocated spectrum as well as the cost to the medical community of new equipment and installations.
7. **RF:** Technical concerns on radiation exposure evaluation procedures should not delay spectrum allocation.
8. **ACTION REQUIRED:** Prompt FCC action on rulemaking needed to reduce potential for additional interference incidents and to allow development distribution of a new medical telemetry systems. Manufacturers cannot design equipment for 1.4 GHz band until allocation is finalized.