



September 4, 2009

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Amendment of Parts 2 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Provide
Additional Spectrum for the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service
in the 413-457 MHz Band (ET Dkt. No. 09-36; RM-11404)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Paralyzed Veterans of America commends the Commission's initiative of the above-referenced rulemaking proceeding and urges immediate action to facilitate the development and commercial deployment of innovative medical micropower network ("MMN") devices.

Paralyzed Veterans is a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization dedicated to those Armed Services personnel who have sustained a traumatic injury or disease of the spinal cord (SCI/D). Our membership includes approximately 20,000 across the country with 34 local chapters. Since our founding in 1946, we have been advanced SCI-related research towards improved treatments and awareness, as well as towards the ultimate cure of this catastrophic human experience of surviving SCI/D. Starting in 1976, we have operated and funded our PVA Research Foundation that awards annually approximately \$1.4 million for innovative grants and post-doctoral fellowships. Our goal is to build capacity in ideas and personnel committed to basic science, applied clinical and technological research related to SCI/D. Our foundation has awarded more than \$42 million representing roughly 450 grants since inception.

We understand that the Alfred Mann Foundation (AMF) continues to pioneer

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MMN technology towards the goal of restoration of sensation and motor function in injured human limbs and organs. The AMF innovation holds exceptional therapeutic promise previously unattainable for millions of Americans, including US military service personnel and veterans, living with sensory and motor dysfunction due to injury or disease. The scientific concept behind AMF's work stems to pre-1900 medical practice which explored the promise of electricity in medicine such as stimulators and shock therapies. Today MMN innovations have reach a stage of near fulfillment of long held promise, but it needs your help.

We know that such promise will not be realized unless the Commission provide critical access to sufficient spectrum and establishes a minimum set of rules to facilitate co-existence among wireless systems. Without sufficient spectrum and service rules for this extraordinary technology, our disabled veterans and other Americans will be deprived of medical treatments that is potentially much safer and more effective than any commercially available treatment options.

In the greater interest to realize full restoration of function for all Americans, it is our wish that the Commission move forward to afford access and management to this important treatment horizon. Medical science and communications technology have a real partnership in this issue, which your Commission can actualize with action on the amendments referenced to this letter. Without Commission support, this technology and others anticipated will languish on the research bench. This is not the goal of research that any of us can afford to support. Implementation means lives in the world of catastrophic injury and disease. Lives as partners, parents, employees and citizens; contributing to America. On behalf of Paralyzed Veterans and disabled Americans everywhere, I urge expeditious Commission action on these amendments.

Thank you for your attention and please do not hesitate to call upon Paralyzed Veterans if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas E. Stripling
Thomas E. Stripling
Director, Research & Education

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