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In the matter of RM-11828:

My experience in Amateur Radio spans 50 years. I have taken and passed eight of the Commission's exams, including telegraphy (receiving and sending) and written exams in order to have earned my Extra Class license. I have been an active amateur radio operator with service in the National Traffic System, Emergency Communications, DXing, awards and digital communications to name a few. I have held numerous leadership positions within amateur radio organizations. I have embraced a love of CW, the challenge of SSB and the technological lure of the digital modes.

With that history in mind, **I fully and unequivocally support RM-11828** as proposed by the ARRL.

Amateur Radio has a desperate need for an entry-level license that reflects the interests of our population in this day and age. To not address this issue in a timely matter will undoubtedly mark the extinction of the Amateur Radio Service within two generations time.

It is unlikely that the Commission will add to its administrative burden the issuance of a new license class, similar to the novice license of the past. A more reasonable and cost effective solution is to groom our current Technician class as a true entry level license, one that encourages exploration of all that amateur radio has to offer, including the High Frequency (HF) spectrum. Currently, Technicians are limited to telegraphy on three HF bands and voice privileges on one. It is no surprise that the telegraphy segments are unused, and the voice privileges that are on a band that rarely experiences good propagation is of minimal interest. Many technicians that do get on the air find themselves restricted to local communications and repeater operations, lose interest and become inactive. There is no incentive to upgrade, as they have not even had a "taste" of why they should upgrade in the first place.

There are a large number of individuals, most likely the majority, who desire an amateur radio license to participate in emergency communications. Additionally, the greatest potential growth of youth in amateur radio would come from the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum, and the "Maker" movement. An entry license class that interests these groups and consistent with their goals is an absolute requirement for the Amateur Radio Service to survive and thrive in the future.

At the heart of this proposal are phone allocations that encompass most of the HF emergency and traffic nets, and HF digital privileges to stimulate the much needed interest of the above groups. This proposal would instantly transform the Technician class to a true entry-level license. It would allow for growth of the Amateur Radio Service rather than allow it to suffer stagnation.

I urge the Commission to summarily dismiss claims that this is an unearned entitlement proposal for the Technician class. Without the likelihood that a new entry license class would be created, this is the only acceptable option. The current Technician licensees would certainly derive a benefit from this proposal, but there is also a very strong possibility that it will bring those who have become inactive back into the mainstream of Amateur Radio. This would give those of us with the higher class licenses an opportunity to serve as mentors to guide them through their new journey on the HF bands.

**I urge the Commission to act favorably on RM-11828 without delay** to not only insure the survival, but encourage the growth of the Amateur Radio Service.