**I am writing in opposition to Petition for Rulemaking, RM-11831**, this action would significantly limit the use of E-mail over radio services provide by the Winlink system which has proved significantly successful in efficiently handling important communications during disasters and emergencies. These systems have greatly enhanced the reliability and carrying capacity of amateur radio to support transfer of information in hurricanes and other events. These are open systems that are not encrypted and are widely adopted by emergency management organizations across the county.

Additionally, digital voice modes such as P-25, DMR, C4FM and D-STAR are welcome modernizations of FM voice communications which allow networking, the ability to connect systems over greater geographical areas promoting interoperability during emergencies as well as through digital technology allow much more efficient use of bandwidth permitting sharing of a specific channel through use of division multiplexing.

We have made extensive use of these digital radio technologies to support our emergency management responsibilities in the City of Seattle and in other jurisdictions across the State of Washington as well as entire USA.

Please reject Petition for Rulemaking, RM-11831 – thank you for your consideration, sincerely

Mark Sheppard, N7LYE

*Communications Unit Leader & ACS Director*

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