**Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Radio Service Rules to Reduce Interference and Add Transparency to Digital Data Communications**

**Docket RM-11831**

This comment is a protest to the suggested changes to 47 CFR Part 97 regarding the propriety of data transmissions on Amateur Radio Service frequencies and perceived encryption by those data methods.

The consequences intended or unintended of this request for rule making are devastating. The advances made for amateur radio operators will be set back to the 1960s. Amateur radio operators have developed software that is being used in enjoying the benefits of being a ham, examples include FT8, JT9, JT65, etc. Amateur Radio Service Emergency Communications will be the most impacted if this proposal is accepted. To be blunt, this will create a public safety issue that will impact Emergency Management Agencies and their constituents who may be adversely affected by the loss of timely and accurate ways to transmit vital information. Public Safety agencies in many areas will lose their last hope for interoperability between those impacted by the loss of normal communications methods in a disaster.

Modern software that allows amateur radio operators to handle and move large volumes of data is not the employment of keying material or cryptographic equipment. Packet, WINMOR, WINLINK, AMTOR, etc. are merely resources used to accommodate amateur radio equipment. Anyone from the NSA to casual listener can copy information transmitted via modern data transmission methods with commercial off the shelf equipment.

FCC licenses are issued at the public’s convenience, necessity and interest. The public is the one that stands to lose the most if this proposal is approved by the FCC. I urge the FCC to not approve this request to severely limit Amateur Radio Service licensees to best serve the public and the public and private agencies they are partners with.

Respectfully,

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