

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20554

<b>In the Matter of</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's</b>	)	
<b>Rules Governing the Amateur Radio Service</b>	)	<b>RM-11828</b>
<b>Rules Concerning Permitted Emissions</b>	)	
<b>and Operating Privileges for Technician Class</b>	)	
<b>Licensees</b>		

**To: The Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau**

**Comments on the PETITION FOR RULE MAKING**

I have reviewed the ARRL Technician enhancement proposal in RM-11828. I support their proposal and encourage the commission to adopt it.

My experience as a ham class instructor and volunteer license examiner, I see where we have a large number of new hams that get their Technician licenses and then don't go on to be active on the air. I see that part of the problem is that they don't get enough exposure to different operating bands and modes. Most start out on the VHF/UHF bands and find it rather limiting. While they have voice privileges on the 10 meter HF band, the bad solar cycles (bad propagation) have limited their operation to essentially local communications.

Technicians need more exposure to the HF bands. Giving them a small taste of voice operation on the 75/80 meter band, the 40 meter band and the 15 meter band will most likely give them the incentive to upgrade to General class.

I have 5 immediate and 4 close family members who are Technician class. I have spoken to several of them and they all agree that some sort of enhanced voice privileges on HF might get them active on the air on the HF bands. My two grandsons (17 and 16) are technicians and would like to have the expanded voice on the HF bands. They have tried 10 meters during times of good solar activity, but most of the time there is no propagation on 10 meters to allow them to make

distant contacts there. They are stuck with local communications, VHF/UHF and 10 meters.

The addition of digital/RTTY privileges to the Technician license are important too. Digital activity is booming on the HF bands. Getting Technicians those privileges would go a long way to give them incentive to upgrade to General class to access more bands.

We need relevant and attractive privileges for the Technician class to get started as a true entry level license. The Technician license needs significant incentive and privileges to attract people to get a ham license in the first place. Without this enhancement, we may fail to attract new hams and keep the ones licensed involved in amateur radio.

Please give due consideration to this proposal and adopt it as written.

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Amateur Extra license

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