Ref: RM-11831

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Matthew Littleton and I have been a licensed amateur operator since 1994. This comment is intended to voice my opposition to RM-11831 as a sole Rule Change. I have spent the last 25 years in public safety with a strong emphasis in communications and Homeland Security, far beyond those who write books and support commercial interests. I have dedicated my career to growing and enhancing public safety communications, and amateur radio plays a major role in providing emergency communications. My priority has rested with enhancing public safety communications to prepare us to respond to natural and man-made disasters; not commercial interests.

Many comments from various authors suggest there are those who will utilize the varying digital modes to compromise national security. However, there is no evidence the digital modes in question has or will compromise national security. There are already rules and law in place which make it illegal for unlicensed operation, the use of communication devices during a crime, and many more. If an individual or group of individuals are planning to use digital modes on amateur radio frequencies to compromise Homeland Security, adopting this proposed rule will not stop such act or acts. For purposes of actual National Security, I will not identify many of the significantly easier secure methods of secure communications methods and/or protocols through public comment process. Rest assured, they do exist and require significantly less expertise than the use of digital modes utilizing amateur radio frequencies. In my opinion, the digital modes of communication in question can and do enhance National Security.

47 CFR 97.1 Identifies the four primary goals titled, “Basis and Purpose”, all of which support growing digital communications modes (among other modes) and emergency communications. With growth comes change and change can sometimes become difficult to embrace. I urge you to discard such a wide and broad rule in favor of addressing more specific and detailed changes.

It is important to note I do not support encryption of any kind on amateur radio frequencies. As with any law, there must be the intent to commit the crime. There is no evidence to suggest users are using modes to intentionally, “obscure” their meaning thus there is no, “intent” to violate 47 CFR Part 91.

In summary, there is no evidence to suggest there is a mass misuse of amateur radio to compromise homeland security or to intentionally encrypt or obscure a message’s meaning. I urge you to dismiss the proposed rule immediately.

Respectfully,

Matthew Littleton

KN4SWB