

Kenneth E. Crouse
Amateur Radio Call Sign: K6KEC
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April 14, 2019

Via online submission

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
445 12 St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Attn: Patrick Webre, Bureau Chief

RE: Opposition to Docket RM-11831 (Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Radio Service Rules to Reduce Interference and Add Transparency to Digital Data Communications)

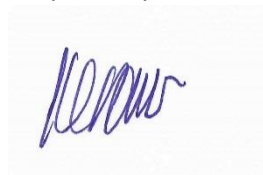
Dear Mr. Webre:

I am a licensed amateur radio operator. My amateur radio call sign is K6KEC. I recently became informed of a petition by the FCC that would limit my usage of amateur radio through the captioned proposal. This is a letter in opposition to the proposal.

Although well-meaning, I believe one of the unacceptable and unintended consequences of such an action would reduce the ability of emergency amateur radio communications personnel to use every opportunity to communicate with government officials in a time of emergency. An example of such an emergency were the wild fires experienced in northern California last year where cell towers in the burn area became unavailable and nearby towers quickly became overloaded. WinLink was used as an important tool by volunteer amateur radio operators reporting critical information with state officials back in Sacramento. Usage of the HF bands for this purpose meant amateur radio communicators could communicate directly with state officials in Sacramento without having to use VHF / UHF repeaters that also become quickly overwhelmed. The proposed rule would, essentially, place a burden on WinLink to the point WinLink would have to close shop in the U.S. relative to the HF bands used for critical emergency communications.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinion opposing the proposed rule.

Respectfully,



Kenneth E. Crouse
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Cc: The Honorable Ami Bera, U.S. Representative, 7th California congressional district