In reference to RM-11831:

As both an Amateur Radio Operator (Amateur Extra) and a FEMA All Hazards COM-L and COM-T, I recommend that the Commission reject the proposed rule change to Part 97.

For decades, Amateur Radio has provided essential services, expertise and personal investment to support communications prior to, during and after major emergencies, disasters and wide-spread communications outages.

At times, Amateur Radio communications Is the only link available until resources reach the area and restoration of services begin. While communications infrastructure continues to be improved and hardened including FirstNet and Band 14, added redundancies to existing facilities, etc., Amateur Radio and its skilled operators continue to provide important resources.

With the development Packet, PACTOR modes, Winlink, Windows Express/WINMOR with HTML ICS forms capability and other modes, the digital communication of important information has essential replaced the much slower voice and CW modes that required transcription, error checking and an involved process.

With ICS and current FEMA and Emergency Management systems the need for detailed information has increased logarithmically. Speed is essential in determining the needs for resources and determining the overall operating picture.

There have always been schisms in the Amateur Radio community; hobby vs. Emcom, CW vs. Voice, AM vs. SSB, digital vs. analog. In each case, both sides have valid points and passion. I do not devalue those that have a strong position but as a community, we need to dedicate ourselves to the providing the most good for the most people while advancing the hobby and our capabilities.

We also need to recognize that Amateur Radio needs to attract new operators in order to continue to survive. The generations that have never known life without the Internet, cell phones, social media, etc. need to have elements of Amateur Radio that can provide meaningful opportunities to engage.

Experimentation, new modes, public service, drone control, robotics, connections to STEM are meaningful entry points which we need to use to engage potential new operators.

In short, Amateur Radio communities (pure hobbyists, experimenters, Emcom, Digital, etc.) need to come together to determine the future of Amateur Radio. The should be equal representation of views and ideas and compromise to solve outstanding issues. Recognition of all the components of Amateur radio need a voice.

The Amateur Radio of 2019 and beyond is not the Amateur Radio of the past. We need to grow, adapt and support who we are. Just as we always have in the past.