

April 25, 2019

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Proposed Rulemaking RM No. 11831

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal to which I am adamantly opposed.

As a volunteer ham radio operator in my community, potential loss of the right to send digital messages in the event of a disaster would be a disaster in itself. Here in Region I of Washington State, sending digital messages via Winlink is practiced every week of the year by many of our Red Cross Chapters, hospitals and Departments of Emergency Management.

This is the method of communication we will rely on to send all sorts of detailed situation reports and resource requests accurately and relatively quickly up the chain of command. It is an important tool in the amateur radio operators toolbox.

In every disaster and disaster exercise, lack of communications is always cited as the primary obstacle to mounting a rapid and effective response. Digital tools such as Winlink will help alleviate this problem.

As a volunteer at several recent Burlington High School Science Fairs, I noticed the great interest in demonstrations of emails being sent by ham radio. Not only were the students fascinated, but their parents were too. The petitioner's assertion that digital modes of communication is somehow detrimental to amateur radio and interest in STEM subjects is ludicrous.

Sincerely yours,

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