

October 3, 1992

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commission Members:

SUBJECT: PR Docket No. 92-154; Proposed Novice Class Examination Rule Change

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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MAIL BRANCH

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FILE

The proposed Novice Class examination rule change specified in PR Docket No. 92-154 is endorsed for population centers in Alaska such as Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau but is not considered practical, just, or in our national best interests for the remote communities of this state. It is, therefore, requested that the Commission recognize the special circumstances existing in Alaska and amend PR Docket No. 92-154 accordingly.

The proposal has been extensively discussed with the head of the VEC program in Anchorage, Roger Hansen (KL7HFQ) and other senior members of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) including the President, Fred Wegner (KL7HFM), and two license training instructors, Rick Marvin (KL7YF) and Lil Marvin (NL7DL) who are also AARC board members. My son, Robert O. Baker, Jr., NL7UQ, has asked me to include his concurrence with this letter as his responsibilities as a Ph.D. in molecular cell biology at the University of Arizona preclude an individual response in the time remaining. He too is a long time Alaskan resident.

The VEC program administered by KL7HFQ is a professional, 'by the book', and efficient operation for which Mr. Hansen is to most highly commended. It was under his program that I received my Novice, Technician, and General Class licenses. He is without contest the foremost authority on FCC examining conditions in Alaska and I echo his comments to the Commission as a 16 year Alaskan resident with somewhat extensive travel throughout this huge state. My 68 odd years have clearly demonstrated that conditions in Alaska are unlike those anywhere else in the United States having lived in ten states and visited the other 40 during a 22 year military career.

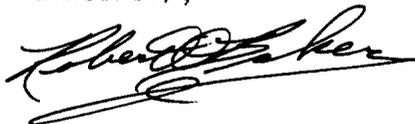
Response time precludes appending a copy of Mr. Hansen's comments to this letter. Accordingly, it is requested that the Commission append a copy of his recent letter on this topic to our letter.

Please note that amateur radio is not only a wonderful hobby in Alaska but an essential element of life here. The Emergency Coordinator for the Municipality of Anchorage spoke to the AARC last evening noting that information on the ash fallout from the volcanic eruption of Mt. Spurr last month was available on a timely basis only from amateur radio operators located in the more remote areas of Southcentral Alaska. We are in a "Condition RED" as this letter is written in anticipation of another eruption of Mt. Spurr within the next 24-48 hours. This is only one of many scenarios in which the amateur radio operators of Alaskan bush communities provided a vital service in public health and safety.

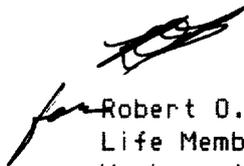
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Thank you for taking time to consider these comments. Please give serious consideration to the special needs of and for Alaska's amateur radio program by amending PR Docket No. 92-154 as suggested by Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ.

Sincerely,



Robert O. Baker, Sr., Ph.D., NL7UH
Commander, USN (ret)
Board Member, AARC
Member, ARRL
840 Breakwater Cir.
Anchorage, AK 99515



Robert O. Baker, Jr. NL7UQ
Life Member, AARC
Member, ARRL
4900 E 5th St.
Apt. 1702
Tucson, AZ 85711

cc Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Congressman Don Young
Fred Wegmer, KL7HFM
Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ
Rick, KL7YF, & Lil Marvin, NL7DL