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November 5, 2019

Ex Parte Notice via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Radio Service Rules to Permit Greater Flexibility in Data Communications, WT Docket No. 16-239; Petition for Rulemaking filed by Amateur Radio Station Licensee Ron Kolarik (KOIDT), RM-11831 (Oct. 9, 2018); Petition for Rulemaking filed by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL), RM-11708 (Nov. 15, 2013)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Friday, November 1, 2019, Loring Kutchins, President, Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. (ARSFI); Tom Lafleur, Director, ARSFI; along with Philip Karn, Jr., former Vice President, Technology, Qualcomm; Ross Merlin, Continuity Systems Technical Director, Department of Homeland Security's National Coordinating Center for Communications SHARES program, both of whom spoke on behalf of ARSFI; and the undersigned met with Federal Communication Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") representatives separately, first in a meeting with Scot Stone, Deputy Chief, Mobility Division of the Wireless Technology Bureau ("WTB"); Suzanne Tetreault, Deputy Chief of the WTB; Ronald Repasi, Deputy Chief of the Office of Engineering and Technology of the WTB; Charles Eberle, Legal Advisor to WTB, and Curt Bartholomew, Senior Emergency Manager of the Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau followed by a meeting with Bill Davenport, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Geoffrey Starks.

During the meetings, we discussed the contents of the attached presentation, copies of which were provided to the attendees. Thus, we presented an overview of the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc., the importance of radio e-mail in the high frequency bands for emergency communications, and Winlink's key role in providing radio e-mail communications during emergency conditions. We provided a detailed description of the substantial efforts that ARSFI expends on ensuring its Winlink station operators comply with the regulations of Part 97. We disputed the allegations of lack of transparency and possible interference lodged against Winlink. We offered a perspective on the importance of digital communications to the Amateur Radio Service

and how the Service is lagging in digital technology in comparison to the other modes of communication under the FCC's jurisdiction. We also urged the Commission to:

- 1) Favorably consider the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WT Docket No. 16-239 and issue a final order encompassing this common sense approach to modern digital communications; and
- 2) Reject and dismiss RM-11831. This request compresses existing digital communications into a smaller portion of the high frequency bands causing unworkable overcrowding. Finally, we shared our concerns that if RM-11831 becomes a regulation, additional rulemaking proceedings would be required to bring Part 97 into conformance.

On November 5, 2019, I also sent the attached presentation via email to the following:

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Brendan Carr  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Geoffroy Starks  
Matthew Berry, FCC Chief of Staff  
Aaron Goldberger, Wireless Legal Advisor to Chairman Pai  
Will Adams, Wireless Legal Advisor to Commissioner Carr  
Erin McGrath, Wireless Legal Advisor to Commissioner O'Rielly  
Umair Javed, Wireless Legal Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel  
Bill Davenport, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Starks

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, I am filing this letter electronically in the above referenced dockets. Please contact me directly with any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Paul C. Steinhardt  
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Attachment

cc via email: Chairman Ajit Pat  
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly  
Commissioner Brendan Carr  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Geoffroy Starks  
Matthew Berry  
Julie Knapp  
Will Adams  
Bill Davenport  
Aaron Goldberger  
Umair Javed  
Erin McGrath  
Suzanne Tetreault  
Scot Stone  
Curt Bartholomew  
Ronald Repasi