This note is in support of the NYU filing that calls for clarification of Section 97.113(a)(4) of the Amateur Service rules that prohibit the transmission of “effectively encrypted or encoded messages, including messages that cannot be readily decoded over-the-air for true meaning.” I was first licensed as a 13-year old in 1961 as WV2QJU, and subsequently advanced through the Technician, General and Amateur Extra Class categories. My current call sign is W2XD.

Ham radio set direction for my life ong career as an electrical engineer, having gotten my BS, MS and PHD degrees in electrical engineering from Columbia University and a very meaningful career that began at Bell Labs in New Jersey.

Though currently not active, I maintain a strong interest in the direction ham radio is taking, especially in how it opens up the door for teens and youngsters for possible careers in electrical engineering and other fields related to amateur radio.

The clarification of Section 97.113(a)(4) is needed because there apparently has been some abuse by those who would use ham radio to bypass commercially available routine communications services. By using encryption and encoding that obscure reading by general observers, as is the case with all other ham radio communications, it is possible, even likely or certain, that this abuse can happen. Such abuse is counter to the spirit of the law, intended to keep ham radio as a hobby and not as a way of bypassing readily available commercial communications channels.

Please seriously consider the NYU petition and provide the needed clarification.

Thank you,

Dr. Douglas N. Zuckerman, W2XD  
IEEE Life Fellow  
IEEE Communications Society Past President4