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Rm: 222

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

8 FEB 1993

POLICY & PLANNING
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
7330-7/1700A3

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FEB 11 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Howell Heflin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heflin:

This is in reply to your letter of January 19, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, H. Phillip Sasnett, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of users of private land mobile radio spectrum and the impact that these proposals may have on their radio systems, including the costs of required modifications.

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Honorable Howell Heflin

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We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituent's concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due February 26, 1993, and Reply Comments are due April 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued near the end of 1993. We urge your constituent to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

for 
Ralph A. Halter
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosure:
Notice

cc:
Chief, PRBureau
Chief, LM&M Divison
Deputy Chief, LM&M Division
Lou Sizemore, Room 857
Docket Files, Room 222
Licensing Div., PRB, c/o Room 5202
P&P Branch Files

CNTL NO - 9300238B

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Congressional

DUR: 2-3-93

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CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
01/26/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300238	01/26/93	01/19/93	02/08/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Howell Heflin	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
Underwood & Sasnett	Comments/remarks on a PRB Docket

radio control 9300238A	PRB/832 1-27-93	9300131 LMMD 1-28-93	9300238B
REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
01/26/93			

REMARKS:

RECEIVED
JAN 28 2 05 PM '93
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PRIVATE RADIO DIVISION
F.C.M.

HOWELL HEFLIN
ALABAMA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0101

*PRB
Pr-docket
238*

January 19, 1993

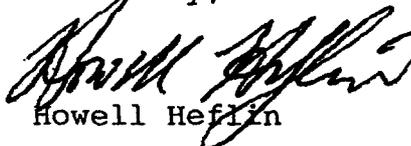
Ms. Linda Solheim, Director
Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Solheim:

I am forwarding two letters to you regarding FCC Docket 92-235. Would you please respond to both of these letters and then forward your response back to me? I appreciate your attention to this matter.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,


Howell Heflin

HH/th

Enclosure

RECEIVED
JAN 23 2 05 PM '93
FBI

01-12-93

The Honorable Howell Heflin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

1993 JAN 15 11:10 AM
U.S. SENATOR HEFLIN

Dear Senator Heflin:

I am interested in Model Aviation and have constructed and flown Radio Control Models since their inception. I fly precision R/C acrobatic model competition in many parts of our nation, mostly in the South.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability for controlling model airplanes.

Our frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our control frequencies in this band are far enough apart to share the band without interfering with each other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. This will not work as it will create frequencies too close to safely operate model airplanes.

Please understand that many models have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 40 lbs. They are very expensive to build; but more to the point are capable of causing damage, injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly before hundreds of spectators and need our full complement of frequencies to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of the mobile radio users at the expense of R/C modelers.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of Radio Control flying by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHz band.

Sincerely,

O. B. Underwood

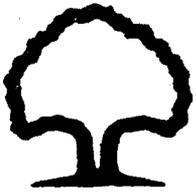
BRUCE UNDERWOOD AGENCY

1413 S. Gunter Ave. • P.O. Box 636
Guntersville, Alabama 35976



The Honorable Howell Heflin
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510





Gulf States
PAPER CORPORATION

January 8, 1993

Senator Howell Heflin
728 Senate Hart Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-0103

Dear Senator Heflin:

We are opposed to FCC Docket 92-235. Our information indicates that it will immediately cost us significant expense in modifications to our current two-way communications system, and at the same time make it a much less reliable/valuable system. Two-way communications in the forest products industry is essential for: the safety of the people who work in the woods environment; for the protection of property as in wildfire detection and suppression, etc.; and for operations where other forms of rapid response communications are not available.

We need your help in defeating this FCC proposal. We would appreciate your contacting the FCC and expressing your position.

Sincerely,

H. Phillip Sasnett
Timber Management Director

HPS/cb