

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF 16-239 and RM-11831 - NYU PETITION FOR OPENNESS IN HAM RADIO

To The Commission:

For a lack of a better way to put it. Amateur radio has been the main theme of my life since middle school, Amateur radio is admittedly an unusual hobby for a teenager, but it's been an enormously important part of my identity. It has introduced me to engineers and hobbyists from six continents, inspired immeasurable personal growth and technical education, and given me real-world engineering, business, and leadership experiences that few seventeen-year old's get to experience.

I first discovered the world of amateur radio in 7th grade. I was a funky, nerdy, and fascinated 12-year-old googling technology topics. Seven years later, I hold the highest license possible, and I am still fascinated. Now, amateur radio as we know and love it is at critical risk.

I support NYU's petition, and strongly feel that private, encrypted communications have no place, nor are in the spirit of amateur radio. Such private communications which, clearly stand outside the long-held standard sanction of remarks of personal nature simply do not belong. These communications which can only be decoded by the transmitting and approved receiving station have no place in our hobby. FCC 97.113(a)5 clearly prohibits use of amateur spectrum when other radio services can be used. There are many effective, secure, and cost-effective pathways for engaging in these communications, and amateur radio should not be the chosen path; commercial services for these matters exist and are the appropriate channel. Only open, unencrypted data, which can be reasonably intercepted should be permitted.

Messages that are intentionally encoded to obscure the transmitted information, even if they are theoretically decodable, but practically impossible hold no place in this great hobby.

FCC §97.1(b) reminds us the core principles of our hobby; promoting the "Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art." Digital communications, and modern advancements in communications technology are still critical, relevant, and fascinating. However, there is a difference between modern amateur radio technology development, and private, non-amateur communications on our frequencies.

Amateur radio has been solely responsible for much of my personal growth, educational opportunity, and technical experience. I stand strongly in support of the NYU petition, as I am deeply interested in supporting the amateur radio service, and a hobby so near and dear to me.

Sincerely,
Martin Sullaway
Amateur Radio Operator: NN1C