

TRENT LOTT
MISSISSIPPI

CHAIRMAN:
COMMITTEE ON
COMMITTEES

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2403

Suite 226, Eastland Building
245 East Capitol Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

February 18, 1993

PRB
92-235
848

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET

RECEIVED

APR 12 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Lou Sizemore
Congressional Correspondence Staff
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Ms. Sizemor:

I am taking the liberty of contacting you with respect to the enclosed constituent inquiries.

The attached correspondence details the nature of my constituents concerns, and I would sincerely appreciate your providing me with information which would be of assistance in my response.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance in this matter, and with kind regards and very best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



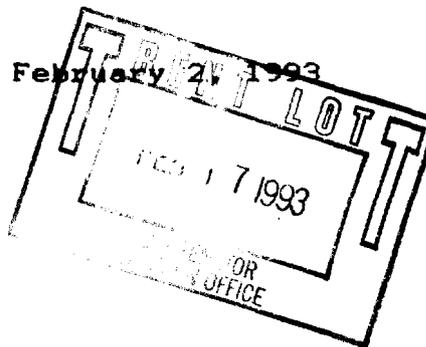
Trent Lott

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041

The Honorable Trent Lott
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Mr. Lott:

I have been interested in aviation for as long as I can remember. I am very active in a local club whose members enjoy constructing and operating radio controlled model airplanes.

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 of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

The models I build weigh as much as 18 pounds and operate at 75 m.p.h. Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We

need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. I own several pieces of radio equipment that would be unusable if this frequency assignment is adopted. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

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

Sincerely,

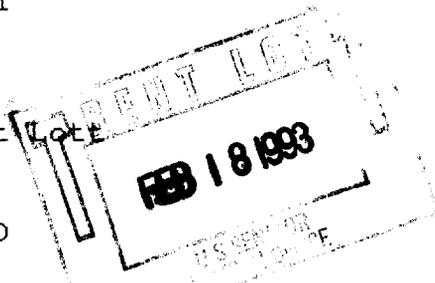
Mark D. Norris

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark D. Norris". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

cg

Grenada Mississippi
January 27, 1993

The Honorable Trent Lott
487 Russell
Senate Building
Washington DC 20510



Attn: Brad

Attached is the information regarding the FCC Docket 92-235 you requested in your telephone conversation with Mr. Gary Burrus.

I am also inclosing a copy of the letter that I personally wrote the FCC in regard to this matter.

To put this all in place you have to understand several things ie:

1. There are an estimated half million model enthusiasts in the USA and at least half of these have one or more model airplanes and or helicopters.
2. This is not a fly by night outfit of some children out on sunday flying a 25 cent airplane; this is BIG business. Some of these airplanes cost thousands of dollars and are operated by dedicated modelers who have devoted years of their life to this sport.
3. There are thousands of clubs all over the USA that promote this sport both by putting on demonstrations of flying, taking part in civic affairs and encouraging young people to get interested in aviation. Many of the people in these clubs are full fledged licensed pilots; commercial as well as private. Our club The TRI CITY CLOUD DANCERS has at present 38 members and is by comparison a small club. Some clubs in the larger cities have three or four times that many.
4. There are thousands of people in the USA that make their living working in either the manufacturing or the sale and distribution of the products necessary to support this hobby. Its a multi million dollar business.
5. The proposal by the FCC would put all this in jeopardy. You cannot operate a model airplane safely in that environment. With only 2.5 Khz spacing between frequencies plus the allowable frequency tolerance you could have a Mobile unit right on your frequency. Even if it were the full 2.5 Khz away you're still in trouble because the mobile unit has four or more times the power of the unit that is controlling the model. You see the key to this is the word MOBILE. These units can be anywhere as opposed to a fixed station which is in a known location and can be protected against.
6. We as a model industry are very safety conscious which is why we have such strict rules for the operation of our models. We don't allow flying except under strict guide lines; such as the requirement that each person must have checked out a frequency pin; this prevents two people from being on the same frequency with the probable crash of both planes likely. This is necessesary when you consider that some of these planes can weigh as much as 20 to 30 pounds and travel at speeds up to 200 MPH and a crash into a croud of people could be lethal. All our safety rules go out the window if the FCC puts the new proposed rules into affect since we could not control where a Mobile user would be or when they would operate their transmitter.

Because of the above and on behalf of all the Model industry we beseech you to use your influence with the FCC to stop this new rule making before it destroys a multi million dollar industry as well as taking away a sport that is enjoyed by so many thousands of people.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.


R.E. Blaylock
Secretary for the
Tri City Cloud Dancers
675 Cooley Ave.
Grenada MS 38901

Grenada Mississippi
January 26, 1993

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington DC 20554

Gentlemen:

It has recently come to my attention that the FCC is considering an action that will severely limit and potentially eliminate a very important hobby of mine.

Your notice of proposed rule making in PR Docket 92-235 would replace part 90 of your rules with a new part 88. At present part 90 allows for the safe use of R/C aircraft and surface models by keeping 10 Khz spacing between fixed commercial users and the frequencies used by R/C enthusiasts. The new part 88 will allow MOBILE users on frequencies within 2.5 Khz of frequencies that are available to us, eliminating safe use of at least 31 of the 50 channels in the 72 Mhz band and 10 of the 30 frequencies in the 75 Mhz band now used by hobbyists all over the USA. In fact even more frequencies will likely be affected.

This action will have a severe detrimental impact upon me and the entire R/C hobby industry. If put into effect my airplane or helicopter could easily be shot out of the sky by a mobile user I would have no way of knowing about. This creates a severe health hazard. Some of these planes weigh 20 to 30 pounds and travel at speeds up to 200 MPH. I don't believe that you or anyone else would like to be around where these planes are being flown with the possibility that some mobile user keys up his transmitter and swamps the receiver of the plane being flown causing it to crash; possibly into a crowd of spectators. This could be lethal.

I have been involved in this hobby for many years. I own many radios and model airplanes plus two (2) helicopters. In addition I have numerous engines, motors, chargers, field accessories, and other products necessary to support

FOX MANUFACTURING COMPANY

5305 TOWSON AVE. — FORT SMITH ARK 72901

PHONE (501) 441-1650
FAX (501) 441-1700

URGENT! URGENT! URGENT! URGENT! URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

The following was received this morning from the AMA. Please read carefully and then make and disseminate as many copies as possible. This is RUSH!

FCC Action - NPRM PR Docket 92-235

Following is very important information regarding model frequencies in the 72 - 76 MHz bands.

The proposal could have a devastating affect on our hobby/sport.

Your help in disseminating this information will be appreciated.

If you have further concerns, please contact the Technical Department at AMA HQ.

Urgent Frequency Alert! (Responses needed before February 26, 1993)

To all users of model frequencies in both the 72 and 75 MHz bands.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* (NPRM - PR-Docket 92-235) which, if implemented, will have a profound effect on model frequency use. Developed by the FCC Land Mobile Service, it creates a massive frequency restructuring - the first of its type in 60 years.

The 419 page document addresses frequency use in another service (Part 88) but will also affect Part 95 where our RC frequency use lives. Without becoming too technical, the restructuring inserts two new frequencies between those presently assigned for modelling use and commercial users. That means we could have a transmitter almost four times the power output of ours, only 2.5 KHz away from a large number of our 72 and 75 MHz frequencies.

In the 72 MHz band, thirty-one of our frequencies would be bracketed, principally in the lower end of the band (below channel 42). A similar condition would exist in the 75 MHz band. Two examples of the frequency placing would look like the following:

Model Channel 14	72.070 MHz
New Insert	72.0725 MHz
New insert	72.0775 MHz
Present Commercial	72.080 MHz
New insert	72.0825 MHz
New insert	72.0875 MHz
Model Channel 15	72.090 MHz
OR	
Model Channel 62	75.430 MHz
New Insert	75.4325 MHz
New insert	75.4375 MHz
Present Commercial	75.440 MHz
New Insert	75.4425 MHz
New Insert	75.4475 MHz
Model Channel 63	75.450 MHz

Not only are these new frequencies very close to ours, they are also designated as "mobile"; therefore, we would never know where they are operating, including right in the pit area at your field or on the street and highway nearby. In addition, the technical specifications for the new equipment allows a legal frequency tolerance which could place their signal directly on ours!

What can be done to address this situation?

The AMA, with full industry support, will pursue all avenues available through the legal counsel they retain to represent modelers

before the FCC. The first step in that process is the filing of formal comments prior to February 26, 1993. Other steps will follow.

We have been strongly urged to use "every arrow in our quiver" to address this proposal. You and your club members are very important arrows that can help us make our point! You are being asked to write NOW to those persons and agencies in the federal government that represent you!

To a Senator:
The Honorable (name)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To the FCC:
FCC
1919 M St. NW
Washington, D.C.

To a Representative:
The Honorable (name)
U.S. House of Reps.
Washington, D.C. 20515

(For the name of your Senator or Representative, contact the Capitol Switchboard at (202)224-3121).

In writing your letters, it is important to do the following:

1. Include the identification of the proposed rule making: (PR Docket 92-235)

2. Personalize your concerns: Here are a few suggested examples...

"I am retired and derive many hours of pleasure from building and operating radio controlled models."

"I am an active competitor in local, national, and international events."

"As a student, I learn valuable lessons from building and operating models."

"I am active in our local club of _____ members."

3. Indicate your financial involvement:

"I own _____ pieces of radio equipment

worth approximately \$ _____ that would be rendered unusable if this frequency assignment is adopted."

"My hobby related business, which employs _____ people, involves _____ radio control sales."

4. Strongly stress the safety and liability aspect created by the proposal!

"The models I build weigh as much as _____ pounds and operate at up to _____ mph."

"Our club of _____ members operates at a public park."

"Since the proposed new frequencies are so close, interference will occur and render most model frequencies unusable."

Some other points to consider:

1. The best approach is a personal letter, written by you, to the government official(s) involved.

2. The second level of effectiveness is a signed form letter.

3. The least effective communication is a petition simply signed by individuals. (This approach is *not* recommended).

4. Many persons derive enjoyment or their livelihood from our hobby/sport, not only those who actually build and operate models. Ask them to write as well, to indicate their concern!

5. The most important fact to remember is ACT NOW! The February 26th date is soon upon us! Write NOW!

6. Contact the Technical Department at AMI Headquarters for additional information (703)435-0750, ext. 264.

Example Letter to Senator or Representative Regarding FCC Rule Making

Month, Day, Year (Date)

The Honorable (Name)

(Address)

(City, State)

Dear Mr./Mrs. (Name) (if to Representative):

Dear Senator (Name) (if to Senator):

(Begin with a description of the writer's interest. E.g., "I am retired and derive many hours of enjoyment from constructing and operating radio controlled model airplanes." Or, "I have been interested in aviation for as long as I can remember. I am very active in a local club whose members enjoy constructing and operating radio controlled model airplanes.")

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 of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

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

Sincerely, (Your Name)

February 7, 1993

The Honorable Trent Lott
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lott

I am a United Methodist Minister and derive many hours of enjoyment from construction and operating radio controlled model airplanes.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission. The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

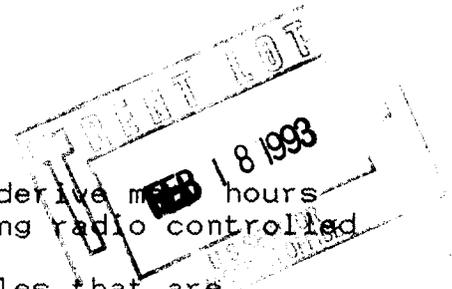
Our radio control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplane, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build, but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference caused the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operation conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to



thousands of people like myself and contributes to the
advancements and development of the commercial aviation
industry.

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

Sincerely, *Sammy Washburn*

Rev Sammy Washburn
P.O. Box 93
Smithville, MS 38870

PH 601 651-4441

904 Palm Street
Jackson, MS 39212
February 4, 1993

The Honorable Trent Lott
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

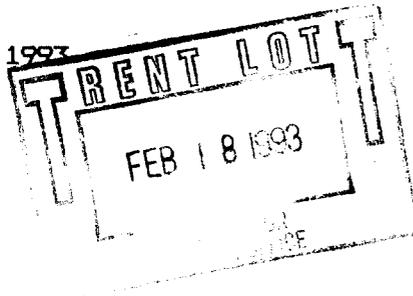
Dear Senator Lott:

I have been interested in aviation for as long as I can remember. I am very active in a local club whose members enjoy constructing and operating radio controlled model airplanes. This club has been in existence for almost fifty years and operates at a city park. We are active in promoting the field of aviation and providing our youth with an opportunity to pursue a hobby that could lead to a career in the aviation industry or the model business.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that 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 of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes. Our radio control frequencies are in the

70-70 MHz band. This band is primarily used for radio controlled model airplanes. However, our

February 5, 1993



Senator Trent Lott
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lott:

I am very active in a local club whose members enjoy constructing and operating radio-controlled model airplanes. I personally own two radios, three R/C models, and have a workshop full of other products necessary to operating my models.

I am very concerned about the proposed rule that is currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted the new rule will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for R/C model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability.

Our radio-control frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio-control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

The Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in PR Docket 92-235 replaces Part 90 of the rules with a new Part 88. Part 90 allows for safe use of R/C aircraft and surface models by keeping 10 Khz spacing between fixed commercial users and frequencies used by R/C enthusiasts. The new Part 88 will allow mobile users on frequencies within 2.5 Khz of frequencies available to us, eliminating safe use of at least 31 of the 50 channels on the 72 MHz band (for R/C aircraft) and 10 of the 30 frequencies on the 75 MHz band (for R/C cars and boats) now used by hobbyists. In fact, more channels will likely be affected.

When we operate our R/C models, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

I don't think it is wise of the FCC to seek to expand the operation conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of the radio-control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radio, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. It is a sizable industry that must be saved from these detrimental FCC actions. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to hundreds of thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposal PR Docket 92-235 for the 72-76 MHz band. We all need your help urgently because the FCC has a deadline of February 26, 1993 after which it may become more difficult to avoid halting these proposals from going into effect.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Shell

Route 2 Box 371
Mantachie, MS 38855

The Honorable Trent Lott
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

January 29, 1993

Subject: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rule Making
PR Docket 92-235

Dear Senator Lott:

I fly Radio Controlled (RC) airplanes as hobby and as a self training method for my profession. (As a Program Administrator for an Aerospace Company and Defense Contractor, I am involved in Aerial Target drone operations normally conducted for Weapons firing exercises.) I have enjoyed the RC hobbies for years and have invested approximately \$3000. into the hobby. Additionally, as a member of the local area RC club we have provided entertainment for 100's of spectators and conducted various charitable events as we are a non-profit organization.

This proposed subject ruling deeply concerns and I see it as a threat to the existence of the hobby. I know the demand for frequency allocations by the communications business is ever increasing, however the individual and non-profit organizations like ourselves must have a right to Radio Frequency (RF) air space as well. The communications industry has the Research and Development funds to improved transmitter/receiver technology and enhance transmission methods through multiplexing, microwave and fiberoptics. This challenge to improve technology will be inevitable as there will never be enough RF air space. If this task is realized now, it would be a chance to make this country the world leader in communications technology. In other words, the board of directors must quit using corporate profits to run their stock prices up to make a fast profit and instead invest in research and development for new products. That is essential to staying in business, as many companies are finding out.

The FCC rule regulation calling for the insertion of additional frequencies in the 72 MHZ band for Land Mobile Communications over the currently allotted frequencies identified for Radio

and serious bodily injury. The typical RC aircraft can weigh from 8 to 40 pounds and can travel at speeds of 80 to 150 miles per hour. With these specifications, it is easy to realize that the RC airplanes are not a child's toy. The RC flyer realizes this and makes the safety aspect of the hobby the number one priority. The safety criteria and operational guidelines are professionally established by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). The, over 200,000 member, AMA organization reviews and sanctions flying facilities, contests, and other public events and provides liability insurance for individual members and clubs nationwide. The AMA has also established the criteria for efficient and safe utilization of the allotted frequencies and has conducted extensive research to preclude possibilities of RF interference. However, in spite of all of these efforts the RF interference that would be randomly generated by Land Mobile transmissions cannot be guarded against.

I do not have large amounts of money or a group of lobbyist, however, as a registered voter in a properly functioning democratic system, I have you to rely on to voice my concerns.


Sincerely yours,
Todd L. Jardee