

Subject: NPRM - PR Docket 92-235

5144 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504
May 25, 1993

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-3507

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioners:

I am writing to express my concern that the Federal Communications Commission NPRM - PR Docket 92-235 will adversely affect the hobby of radio control model aircraft. I urge the FCC to consider seriously the comments that the Academy of Model Aeronautics has made and will be making concerning the proposal. I think one past rebuttal made by the FCC shows a considerable lack of familiarity with the hobby.

The particular document I refer to was a question and answer statement that appeared on CompuServe computer network. In it the FCC states the following:

" . . . Rather, these channels are used in limited locations such as a factory or construction site, mainly for nonvoice operations to monitor or control expensive equipment such as overhead cranes. Model airplane enthusiasts seek clear areas and fields. Thus, the two classes of users rarely notice each other."

Yes, we modelers do seek clear areas; but, we don't always find them. In Lincoln, Nebraska there are two radio control model airplane clubs. One has a field located next to a commercial/industrial area. The other club's flying site was located in the middle of an industrial park until the gas company constructed a building on the last usable piece of land. I am also familiar with a flying field in Omaha, Nebraska that borders an industrial zone.

In an earlier passage from this document there is another supposition:

" . . . this means that even if a factory and a radio control hobbyist shared a channel, which they would not under this proposal, the radio control user's model airplane would continue to stay under control as long as the plane is reasonably closer to the hobbyist's radio transmitter than the factory's radio transmitter."

In my thirty some odd years of experience in the hobby, the only modelers that I have seen fly consistently close in are those who are flying in competition or those flying radio control helicopters. These modelers make up a small minority of the radio control model airplane fliers.

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A few seconds of radio interference can cause a model aircraft to crash. Even momentary interference that does not result in a crash will turn an enjoyable flight into a harrowing experience. No modeler is willing to risk months of building time and hundreds of dollars of equipment to fly on a frequency that is subject to interference. After