

I want to support WD Docket No. 16-239, RM-11708 because faster and more efficient data transmissions using Amateur Radio are critical to emergency and disaster communications as proven by the recent STAs granted by the FCC for disaster relief communication. Amateur Radio operators need full time access to the best available technology so that they can be prepared and ready at a moments notice.

I am the Amateur Emergency Radio Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator for Jefferson County Washington and have used the existing Pactor 3 technology in emergency drills in support of our Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management. The present FCC rules unnecessarily restrict the data throughput so as to make HF communication into and out of a disaster area virtually impractical.

I am in favor of and agree with the filings from ARSFI and the contents of the ARSFI Comments document.

No Amateur Radio operator is restricted from being able to monitor digital communications any more than an operator is unable to decode Morse Code. All digital protocols on Amateur Radio are required to be unencrypted and to use publicly published protocols.

Certainly there are criminal activities on the airwaves but considering the levels of encryption available on smartphones and their ease of physical transport and universal coverage, they would certainly be targeted for use by criminals rather than amateur radio and its digital protocols.

I have been licensed for nearly 50 years and I have seen many changes in Amateur Radio capabilities and technologies that Amateur Radio has developed in the radio art. I have also seen the fears of new technology. The Amateur Radio community has always been able to satisfactorily share our spectrum amongst the various modes of communications. Allowing higher speed data communications on HF will increase our utility to our emergency communications served agencies that will directly benefit our neighborhoods and communities in times of greatest need.

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