

Honored Board Members;

I am contacting you in support Docket 16-239 (Amateur Radio Symbol Rate NPRM).

I am an active member of the Emergency Communications group AUCOM in South West Virginia. Our PRIMARY method of information transmittal is WINLINK. The current limitation of 300 Baud on HF is a SEVERE limiting factor in message transfer speed.

Removal of the BAUD limit and substitution of bandwidth limits will only increase development of better data transfer protocols and processes. These improvements WILL NOT be of ANY harm to Homeland security or support terrorism in any way, shape or fashion.

If someone wishes to break the law, they will. There are more communications methods available to law breakers that are more difficult to detect and decipher than anything a licensed Amateur would or could utilize (i.e. Spread Spectrum, Encrypted Digital Voice and Internet Dark Web as examples).

Amateur Radio has been on the forefront of most communication advances. HAM Radio NEEDS this change to allow further progress in digital communication methods.

I believe that the removal of the BAUD limit in favor of bandwidth limitations will do nothing but improve Amateur Radio and Emergency Communications as a whole.

Sincerely

Frank R. Howard

WB1USN