

Several comments have addressed the technical and legal specifics of this proposal. I fully support the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. (ARFSI) filing in the matter of The Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Radio Service Rules to Permit Greater Flexibility in Data Communications.

I fully support the requested change from a baud rate specification of 300 baud, which was appropriate at the time it was enacted, to a bandwidth-based specification.

In lieu of reiterating the technical and legal specifics so well documented by the ARFSI filing, I'd like to address the proposal, and the opposition to the proposal by Mr. Rappaport from a strategic, or 40K foot-view. The proposed change allows for the continued innovation with robust digital communications by US amateurs; it also enables US amateurs to provide the highest level of support in communications that are technically possible today. One measure of the value of this change is that in severe crises, the FCC has temporarily lifted the restriction in order to enable critical communications.

That is, this change, like others before, will both promote and enable the community of licensed amateur radio operators and protocol developers to continue fulfilling the FCC's stated purpose and role for amateur radio.