Dear FCC,

I am a Ham radio operator K7RHT and use digital modes daily. Since I live in a small community, backup communications is of great importance to us, and as the ARES EC and RACES ARO it is my job to make sure that we have the ability to send and receive traffic, including ICS forms to and from our State EOC to and from our County EOC. With the use of HF digital modes, we are able to accomplish this task, whether it be a cut main cable, or some other disaster or event, we need to have digital communications and speed is of the essence when lives matter.

I have read the arguments against the Winlink system and just don’t even understand how anyone can make the argument, especially someone who is an avid CW operator. Maybe it has not been pointed out to those folks that CW is the first digital mode of communications and clearly makes the message unreadable to anyone who does not read CW, I surely can no longer do so. And, look at how a mistake could easily be made using CW versus being able to actually transmit a FEMA ICS form which then is a permanent record while CW is gone once transmitted.

Most of the rest of the world uses Pactor 4, which is much MUCH faster than any other mode out there and allows the transmission of messages far and wide quickly. When lives matter, time and this speed of sending and receiving traffic matters. I think the proof of this is in the fact that the restrictions on the use of Pactor 4 are lifted in an actual emergency. In order for stations to be ready we have to train in the use and methods that will be used in a real emergency. I implore you to pass this change to allow the use of Pactor 4.

Thank you,

Randy Thomas

K7RHT