

Date: 16 December 2018

From: Raymond J. Spreier (KG7AV)  
Post Office Box 6073  
Bend, Oregon 97708

To: Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: NPRM Docket 16-239

To whom it may concern:

In reference to the above referenced docket, I support the lifting of the current 300 baud limit on digital transmissions in the amateur radio HF band, and the adoption of a new limit of 2.8 KHz bandwidth limit.

I am a volunteer operator for the Deschutes County, Oregon ARES unit, as well as with the Oregon Health Authority Region 7 Hospital Preparedness Program. We serve a large, rural expanse of Oregon that extends from the east slopes of the Cascades to Idaho. We rely heavily on HF NVIS communication with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. Our regional airport, KRDM, has been designated by FEMA as *the* forward staging area for providing C4I in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone emergency. In a grid-down situation, the hospitals in particular would rely heavily on amateur radio for critical regional communications. Current transmission times for messages and documents can be, frankly, brutal, at current HF rate limits. The adoption of higher bandwidth limits would greatly improve emergency communications capacity at a time when lives would literally be on the line.

I also volunteer my own station equipment for use as a communications gateway that is available on VHF and HF on a 7x24x365 basis for maritime and land-based radio email connectivity. My system features standalone store-and-forward messaging capability, completely independent of the ARFSI Winlink system, with best path / multipath routing ability. In conjunction with six other partner nodes, we span the CONUS with a grid-independent, agile, and resilient messaging system. That system is also available to DC ARES and R7HPP on an auxiliary basis, in the event of a regional emergency. The ability to implement higher throughput protocols such as Pactor 4 would represent a huge improvement both for amateur and emergency AUXCOM communications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray J. Spreier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct dot at the end of the last name.

Ray J. Spreier  
KG7AV