As an ARES member and user of Winlink for emergency communication, I strongly support the ARSFI position to remove the 300 baud symbol rate limit on HF bands to encourage the use and development of more efficient digital protocols on the amateur bands.

Some commenters rebuttal the removal of 300 baud symbol rate limit, citing 47 CFR §97.113(a)4 which states “No amateur station shall transmit messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.” It’s important to note “purpose of obscuring” is the intended prohibition within the rule. Winlink protocols intended purpose is just the opposite, it is NOT to obscure the message *at all*, but rather to transmit a message clearly, without error or corruption, to get a message through in the worst of conditions … in fact it is designed with the intent to ensure a message is NOT obscured.

The #1 listed basis and purpose of Amateur Radio is defined in 47 CFR §97.1(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

It would be a shame to stifle the advancement of Amateur Radio and restrict the ability to provide a voluntary service to the community by saving lives through efficient and reliable communications over an issue of baud rate.