

December 21, 2018

To: FCC

From: Paul Drothler - WO4U

Re: 16-239

I have been a licensed Amateur for decades. However, and more importantly, when I received my first license I also accepted the responsibility to serve the citizens of this great country through volunteer Emergency Service. The broad spectrum of frequencies that were granted to the Amateur Radio Service is very significant. Likewise, the obligation that we have as operators to serve our nation is truly significant.

Over the last few years I have been disappointed that the FCC has seemingly closed its eyes to some of the advancements in technology and how these advancements can be used to efficiently save lives and property. A case in point is the Symbol Rate restriction.

It is high time that the Symbol Rate restriction be totally eliminated from Part 97. I do recognize that there is a small percentage of the licensed radio operators that feel differently. They want the FCC to continue to restrict the use of high speed, highly efficient and error free modes of digital communications. However, these people do not represent the majority and, in most cases, do NOT represent those of us that have made a commitment to Emergency Service.

Please take this opportunity to revise Part 97 and eliminate the Symbol Rate restriction.

Thank you for your consideration!