

As a licensed Amateur Radio operator of over 40 years, an Engineer, and a volunteer Emergency Communicator with the American Radio Relay League, I fully support the FCC Proposed Rulemaking documented in Docket No. 16-239, allowing higher character rates.

The Amateur Radio Service was established to support the advancement of the radio art, and provide community support in times of emergency and disasters.

Some of the most explosive advancements in the radio art are in fact being made in the amateur service in support of more reliable and faster digital communications in the HF bands.

These developments not only advance the radio art, but also more reliably and efficiently support the emergency communications services.

Outrageous claims being made by opponents include the 'proprietary' nature of ONE of the many modulation schemes employed in amateur service. MOST are not proprietary. Yet, even these proprietary modes are available via new and used equipment by anyone with the means to build or purchase a modern transceiver, and so are no more difficult or expensive to monitor and employ than a standard side-band signal.

In fact, the converse is true. Because a large number of high character rate modes are already developed in the public domain and are readily available in the form of shareware software sourcecode, AND because PACTOR is so ubiquitous that used equipment is readily available for very low cost, there is no reason whatsoever that the proposed rulemaking should be blocked.

To the contrary, the proposed rulemaking is fully in support of one of the most important advancements of the radio art to dawn on the amateur radio scene. It must move forward. Not to do so would significantly impede several of the main purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

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