

MD 94-19

January 26, 1994

Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street NW
Washington, DC. 20554
Attn. Secretary FCC.

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JAN 31 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Secretary of FCC,

This letter is in regards to planned FCC regulatory fee increases mandated by Congress supposedly if it serves the public interest. Please allow me to state my opposition to this rate increase as a avid sailor and boater for over 14 years. Congressional panels must not have very many boaters on it, or maybe they have only unregistered immigrants doing all the up keep for 50 cents an hour on their luxury yachts. The governmentals treatment to boaters is much like sticking a knife into a live piggybank, the government knows there's money inside but it refuses to hear the squeal boaters make every time it finds a new way to stick it to boaters. Its our passion that's keeps us boat owners, spending lots of money on parts, repairs, electronics, divers, diesel fuel, certified mechanics, and marina dock fees.

Trying to squeeze more spare dollars out of us just makes us one dollar closer to selling the boat, not buying a new boat, not hiring local laborers, not making purchases in the retail marine stores. I want you to look at any marine publication that's handy and you'll find lots of boats for sale in there, its very expensive to keep a boat, some how you have confused the majority of us boaters with the rich and famous. We as boaters are already spending more than we really can afford just to keep our desires and love of sailing alive, raising our Safety communications license might keep someone from buying that VHF radio, or from buying a top rated Epirb unit for a cheaper unit risking personal safety. I am asking you to not raise our fees, I am already making 1/3 less in salary than last year, I am lucky that I still have a job, help me keep my sanity by allowing me to keep boating on the few dollars I have left. Don't raise boating fees & stop raising taxes on boaters.

Bon voyage,

Gary Wong, capt. Asian Star-

G. Wong
Po. Box 10412
Napa, Ca. 94581



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Secretary of the FCC
C/O Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sirs,

I understand there is a proposal to increase marine VHF license fees to where it would cost \$70 for a five year license. This would double the current fee schedule.

I am writing to inform you I am in opposition to the fee increase on the basis that it will result in a negative impact on boating safety. Many boaters will try to get by without this, and thus put them in jeopardy in an emergency.

An additional result will be that more boaters will choose to take their chances and operate without a license. This will mean more clutter on the channels with no required maintenance on the radios (as is necessary to have done under current license requirements) and the situation may eventually deteriorate to what the CB channels are now; almost totally useless. This will also make boating safety much more tenuous and hard to feel confidence about.

I'm sure that you agree there will be no increased enforcement capability as a result of the fee increase, and that enforcement will not bring any significant relief to keeping the channels workable in the scenario I have outlined above.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my feedback on this.

Respectfully,



Richard F. Calkins
5177 Briarcrest Dr.
Flint, MI 48532

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Dear Sir,

I find it ludicrous, if not totally inexcusable, for the government to institute a new "user fee" on holders of VHF marine radio licenses! Does the FCC access a fee on aviation VHF users?

Last summer after a particularly windy day on a lake in southern Illinois, I was on my way to a night's anchor. I observed an over turned runabout bouncing against the shore line. The depth of water was not enough for my sail boat to take a close look, so I began an expensive relay to the water patrol via my cellular telephone. (The installation of a VHF radio was this winters project.) First I had to call the operator as 911 was not in the area. Then not being in my home area I had to access "roam" calling, anyway to make a long story short it cost me close to \$10.00 to report the accident. Are you asking us to turn the other way when we observe fellow boaters in harms way?

Boaters should not be charged the fee that presently exists! Once again, how much is charged to our aviation brother users?

I am a retired military pilot and still carry my radio telephone operators permit.

Education and radiotelephone etiquette, yes, fees -- repeal the one now in existence!



Arthur E. Pekarek
A Safety Conscience Sailor
5801 Runnymede Pl
Imperial, MO 63052

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