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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 09 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

**RE: Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993**

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a marine business and member of the New York Marine Trades Association, I am writing to encourage you to waive the VHF Radio licensing and annual regulatory use fees for recreational boaters. Boaters' safety should be the first concern of the FCC, and this fee will create the opposite result.

Paying in advance the \$110 license fee consisting of \$40 application fee and an annual user fee of \$7 will most certainly discourage owners of vessels not required to carry radios, primarily recreational vessels, from carrying essential safety equipment, such as VHF marine radios, emergency position indicating radiobeacons (EPIRBS), and radar. This equipment, although not required on recreational vessels, greatly enhances safety and significantly improves the United States Coast Guard's ability to provide assistance in emergencies. This fee exceeds the cost of certain marine radios.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act allows the Commission to "waive, reduce or defer payment of a fee in any specific instance for good cause shown, where such actions would promote the public interest." I believe, as does the New York Marine Trades Association, that waiver of the regulatory fees for vessels which carry radio equipment, but are not required to do so, would enhance maritime safety and promote the public interest. Therefore, I ask the Commission waive the fee for such vessels.

Sincerely,

NYMTA Member