

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Assessment and Collection of) MD Docket No. 96-186
Regulatory Fees for Fiscal)
Year 1997)

To: The Commission

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO SUBMIT LATE-FILED COMMENTS

The American Radio Relay League, Incorporated (the League), the national association of amateur radio operators in the United States, by counsel, hereby respectfully requests leave to submit comments in the above-captioned proceeding after the close of the comment date. The comments are being tendered contemporaneously herewith. As good cause therefor, the League states as follows:

1. The comment and reply comment dates in this proceeding were significantly short, only 15 days after publication of the March 5, 1997 Notice of Proposed Rule Making in the Federal Register. That publication occurred March 10, 1997. The comments were thus due March 25, 1997 and reply comments were due April 4, 1997.

2. Dissemination of the document among radio amateurs did not occur until recently, and substantive response from the League's membership was not received until mid-April. The League's Executive Committee held a scheduled meeting April 12, and considered the issue at that time. The comments were prepared expeditiously thereafter and reviewed by certain officers, most of whom are

volunteers, and are being tendered as soon as is practicable under the circumstances.

3. The comments tendered contemporaneously herewith address only one narrow issue in the overall determination of the FY 1997 regulatory fees. The determination of Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign fees is related to the ongoing initial implementation of that program by the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, which is not yet completed. Accordingly, the timing of the resolution of this matter is inconsistent with the program for which fees are being charged.

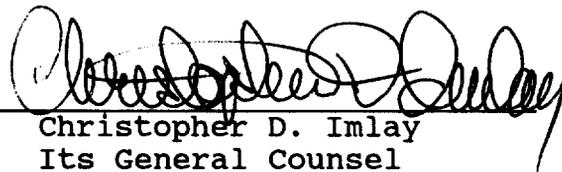
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the contemporaneously tendered comments be accepted and considered substantively in this proceeding, notwithstanding their submission beyond the brief comment period established by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

**THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY
LEAGUE, INCORPORATED**

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By


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April 23, 1997