WESTERN INTERTIE NETWORK

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May 15, 1998

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington DC, 20554

RE: RM 9267

Gentlemen,

It has come to our attention that the LMCC is demanding that you immediately reallocate most of the 420 to 450 MHz band presently in the amateur radio service. We strongly oppose any such action!

The 420 to 450 MHz amateur radio UHF band is the second most popular of the amateur radio services' VHF and UHF allocations. There are thousands of FM repeaters operating daily from 440 to 450 MHz, and a variety of modes on the air every day in the 420 to 430 MHz segment, including thousands of point to point links, and a very mature amateur television fraternity.

We at the Western Intertie Network (the WIN System) presently operate five high level UHF repeaters in the 440 to 450 MHz segment, covering from Southern Arizona to Central California, including all of the seven Counties of Southern California. We also operate ten point to point full duplex links.

Our group, the WIN System, has been affiliated with the San Diego County RACES emergency preparedness organization for years, and because of our wide area coverage, we have been able to handle innumerable pieces of emergency traffic during three major fires and two major earth quakes. It is impossible to estimate how many lives we have directly touched during emergencies, however, I am certain we have been a major communications force during these times of emergencies.

The WIN System also routinely operates many of our repeaters for public safety missions. Several times each year WIN System repeaters are used to handle communications at various Marathons, 10K runs, Bicycle Events, and Special Olympics Events for the handicapped. These public service communications activities would be impossible to achieve without the 440 MHz amateur band "wide area coverage" repeaters operated by the WIN System, and donated to public service.

We therefore strongly urge you to deny the demands of the LMCC. We as amateur radio operators continue to provide the above services free to the public. There is never a charge for either the 440 MHz repeater equipment, or the operators who donate their time and expertise during these times of public service. I do not think the LMCC would likewise provide such services free to the public. Their agenda is to make a profit from these frequencies, not to serve the public, free of charge, as is the amateur credo.

Sincerely,

Bob Luff, W3QAC
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