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Before the

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
 An Allocation of Spectrum for)
 Private Mobile Radio Services) RM-9267
)

To: The Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission

STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO RM-9267

I am writing in opposition to the Land Mobile Communications Council's (LMCC) proposal to re-allocate the 420-430 MHz and 440-450 MHz frequency spectrum to commercial, private, land mobile applications. Instead, I ask that the Commission change the Amateur allocation from secondary to co-primary with the U.S. government. Prior to the Cold War era, the Amateur Radio Service was a primary status user of these frequencies. With the tremendous success of the modern "no code" Technician license and the high growth of Amateur UHF operations, now is the time to restore Amateur Radio's historic primary status within the 420-450 MHz band.

The 420-450 MHz Amateur allocation is the second most used Amateur VHF/UHF band. The LMCC has requested "sharing" this band with Amateur operations, yet provides no explanation for how "sharing" might occur. Based on the history of "sharing" with commercial services (particularly the example of AVL companies that shared 902-928 MHz and then ordered hams off the air), "sharing" means that Amateur operations

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will be evicted from the band. This is what happens when commercial, for-profit services “share” with not-for-profit community-service-oriented Amateur Radio operations.

Amateur Radio has shared and will continue to share its VHF/UHF allocations with *mutually compatible* services and operations. These have included the U.S. government, the U.S. military, NOAA Doppler wind shear radar and other government radiolocation services. Amateur Radio has a long and proud history of supporting the U.S. armed forces and NOAA through the National Weather Service’s SkyWarn system. For these reasons, there is a *mutual interest in sharing between compatible services* like Amateur Radio and the U.S. government. However, there are *no mutual interests* in common with for-profit private land mobile services; “sharing”, as in the AVL example, will result in the loss of 420-430 and 440-450 MHz by the Amateur Radio Service, which will prove devastating to the mission of the Amateur Radio Service.

Many government agencies and non-profit disaster relief organizations would be tremendously harmed by the loss of the Amateur 420-430 and 440-450 MHz allocations. The following is a partial list of agencies that I have assisted by providing emergency communications via Amateur Radio using the 420-450 MHz band:

- National Weather Service’s SkyWarn in western Michigan, northern Alabama, southeastern Texas, and central Florida. I travel extensively in work, carrying a hand-held transceiver. I am also a trained Senior Observer in the SkyWarn program.
- American National Red Cross - disaster relief / tornado recovery support in northern Alabama and central Florida.

- National Traffic System (NTS) - digital (packet) message routing origination and delivery to and for private citizens, relaying messages concerning personal health and safety and property status. Messages included relaying emergency messages to U.S. armed forces service persons' families.

Private and for-profit radio services do not have mutually compatible interests with the Amateur Radio Service. Sharing between private land mobile and the Amateur Radio Service, as proposed by the LMCC, will not work. The 420-450 MHz band is the second most used VHF/UHF Amateur Radio allocation. The loss of these frequencies will cause severe disruption to the mission of Amateur Radio, as specified in C.F.R. Title 47 Part 97.1, and will render severe harm to the Amateur's ability to support numerous government and non-profit relief agencies.

I respectfully request that you DENY the request of the LMCC to share the Amateur Radio allocations at 420-430 and 440-450 MHz. Instead, I request that the Commission restore Amateur Radio's historic co-primary status in the entire band 420-450 MHz.

Sincerely,



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May 17, 1998