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FCC MAIL ROOM

May 28, 1998

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222, 1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554.

Subject: File Number RM-9267

I am an amateur radio operator, FCC callsign KQ6WE. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Coast Amateur Radio Training & Operations Group (CARTOG). I oppose the Petition for access to the 70 CM Amateur Band and other non Amateur Radio spectrum submitted by the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC).

I am very active in all of CARTOG's operations throughout our local communities. The 70-cm band the LMCC proposes to take over is a critical band to our amateur radio activities in our area. Our 70-cm band contains over twice the spectrum of all the ham bands below it. It is the lowest band where spread spectrum is authorized and is critical to wide-bandwidth operations. As many of us are moving into higher data rates in digital communications, the spectrum available in the 70-cm band is essential. We are using fast-scan amateur television (ATV) in many of our emergency services and disaster response communications and the 70-cm band is the only band where we can deploy and use these systems.

I do a lot of work with CARTOG's training and educational activities. CARTOG promotes amateur radio as a positive and exciting activity to interest school kids in sciences and mathematics. We recruit many kids and families into the hobby. Many new, younger hams are particularly interested in digital modes and get involved with higher data rates. When we need to exceed 19.6 kilobauds or 20 kHz bandwidth, we must go above the 2-meter band and 70-cm is the only available band with adequate bandwidth and authorization to do so.

To support the Big Sur International Marathon, we use the 70-cm band extensively for FM simplex, FM repeaters, packet, Automated Position Reporting System with the Global Positioning System, ATV, and ATV repeaters. We also support about a dozen other community events. None of these events could easily or economically replace our amateur radio support. The 70-cm band is critical for each and every one of these activities. Loss of this spectrum will severely hamper our ability to provide these services to our communities and nation.

I hope that you will continue to protect our amateur radio bands. Thank you very much for your help.



Antonio Sanchez
KQ6WE

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