

Subject: File Number RM-9267

Miguel P. Quiane
1606 Kenneth Street
Seaside CA 93955

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 a ham operator, FCC callsign KF6KLU. My two daughters are also active ham operators, Daisy Quiane, KF6MMH and Crystal Quiane, KF6MMI. My daughters and I are members of the Coast Amateur Radio Training & Operations Group (CARTOG) and the Navy Postgraduate School Amateur Radio Club (NPSARC). I am also member of the Board of Directors of CARTOG. We 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).

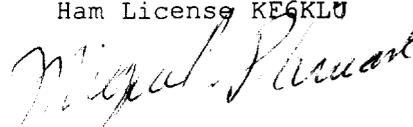
My daughters and I are active in CARTOG's operations in our local communities. We especially enjoy working with the CARTOG Radio Camps and working with kids and families in the positive activities provided by amateur radio. At Radio Camps and at the many science exhibits put on by CARTOG, the 70-cm band is very important. All of our Amateur Television and ATV repeater activities are on this band. Many of our experimental activities used in training and at displays and Radio Camps are done in this band. In the woods, 70-cm signals often work much better than 2-meter signals which are often blocked by the foliage around our campsites and hiking trails.

The 70-cm band the LMCC wants to grab for their monetary benefit is a very important band to our ham radio activities. We are using ATV or fast-scan amateur television in many of our Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) activities. The 70-cm band is the only band where we can use these modes and their repeaters with current hardware. This equipment is also safer and easier to employ than equipment for much higher frequency bands.

We also support many non-emergency, community events. The 70-cm band is absolutely necessary for each of these events. Loss of pieces of this band will severely damage our ability to provide these vital communications services to our communities.

I hope that you will protect us from these few people who want to grab spectrum for their own monetary gain. Thank you.

Miguel P. Quiane
Ham License KE6KLU



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OET

Michael B. Detweiler
2468 South Bascom Ave.#15, Campbell, CA 95008-4320
(408) 559-7776
May 30, 1998

(Original)

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: RM 9267

Dear Mr. (or Ms.) Secretary:

It is only in the last few days that I heard about the proposed takeover of the 70-cm band. I apologize for this late appeal, and I urge you to consider my arguments seriously. (They are the best I could do on such short notice.) I have enclosed four copies, as requested.

I am quite dismayed and annoyed to hear of the LMCC demand to take the 420-450 MHz amateur band for its own use. I look upon this demand as a blatant disregard, not only of hams, but also of the other US citizens who benefit from amateur radio activities. LMCC tactics make it crystal clear that they consider amateur radio to be a worthless activity, and have little regard for the the amateur radio operators (hams) who have given so much to the country and to the development of radio technology. LMCC is interested only in profit. There are other frequencies they could use: I have sometimes listened to the government 70-cm frequencies from 400-420 Mhz, and have heard *nothing*. I'm not saying that it is un-used, but it certainly appears to be *under-used*. Why not give the LMCC some of that band?

There are over half a million hams in the US alone. The 70-cm band is the second-most popular ham band in the VHF-UHF spectrum, and more hams are getting licensed every day. The 2-meter band is already pretty full. So the 70-cm band will be used much more, rather than less, in the future. This band is used by many thousands of hams every day.

There are thousands of FM repeaters across the country using the 440-450 MHz region, and at least hundreds of repeater links using the 420-430 MHz and 433-435 MHz regions.

I am a member of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), and I take this responsibility and use of amateur ham radio very seriously. I do an occasional neighborhood watch patrol in my area, and I have used the FM repeaters on 440-450 MHz to make hundreds of emergency autopatch calls on various occasions. The results of these calls have assisted uncountable motorists in trouble, calling the fire dept. in cases of home structure fires, calling the police to get drunks off the road, or in cases of suspicious vehicles, or persons, or crimes. I cannot remember how many times I've used the 440-450 MHz FM repeater systems for these kinds of emergency calls, for others and for myself on occasion. Now, multiply these calls by many thousands of hams across the US, and you get some idea of the good work that hams are doing with these 70-cm frequencies.

Certainly, I could - and have - used the 2 meter band for emergency autopatch calls, but the 2-meter band is much smaller, and much more crowded than the 70-cm band. This is especially true in large urban areas, such as my San Jose - Campbell region of the Bay Area. It is even more true for L.A., New York, Chicago, etc. So we really do need the band space.

In California alone, there are several 440-450 MHz repeater systems which cover the length and breadth of the state, and they are linked through the 420-435 MHz portion of the band. These systems can be of enormous help in emergencies, such as the earthquakes to which our state is prone. The same argument can be made even more strongly for other states which are regularly subjected to tornadoes, hurricanes and floods. As examples, consider the entire southeastern US, or the entire Midwest, or Northwest, etc. And those are just weather-related emergencies. What about all of the fires and crime situations, and medical emergencies which are *not* weather-related?

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I feel obliged to mention that the FCC does not have a good record in cases of reallocating ham frequencies. When the FCC took away 2 MHz of the 220-224 MHz band, at the request of United Parcel Service, the result was that UPS decided not to use it after all! Later on, hams got back some frequencies from 216-220 MHz., but now we have a split band, and thousands of repeater owners were forced to go to a lot of trouble to change all their repeater frequencies & antenna systems. So all this reallocation did was to cause people a lot of trouble.

The next obvious example that comes to mind is, of course, the CB band, which was the old ham 11-meter band. That has unfortunately turned out to be a public communication disaster. However well-intended the decision may have been.

Now it appears that the FCC may take away some or all of the 420-450 MHz band, at the request (actually, the demand) of the LMCC. In view of the above examples, do you really think this makes sense? Do you really imagine that the end result will be any better than the above examples? Do you think the LMCC intentions for the 420-450 MHz. band will really be better than the emergency, satellite, ATV, and packet (and educational) uses for which the hams already use it?

Do you believe it is fair to expect hams to spend money on equipment and radios and antennas if they know that the FCC can, and will, readily take away any given ham frequencies, whenever some commercial organization asks for them? I am hardly a rich ham, but I have a fair amount of money invested in my radios and other equipment. What should I do with those radios, that once helped people in emergencies, when their frequency range becomes unusable and illegal for me because of an FCC rule change?

I mention these instances only to illustrate that whenever the FCC has reallocated (taken away) ham frequencies, the end result has been a disaster, at least for hams, and often for others. Please don't do it again!

I know that one of the benefits of being an "amateur" radio operator is that I don't have to pay a fee for my radio license. However, I realize the value of the license, and if it takes money to safeguard our amateur radio frequencies, I would not mind paying a small license fee (similar to the DMV license renewal) for my ten-year frequency privileges. Something like \$10 or \$20 per license for ten years would not be unreasonable, especially if it would help stave off frequency-grabbing by commercial organizations and companies. And of course, the fee would be multiplied by over half a million. I am not asking you to charge us, but I believe many hams would happily agree with a license fee, if it would safeguard ham frequencies. (Maybe we could get a tax deduction!)

I thank you for your time in reading and considering the points made above in defense of keeping the 70-cm frequencies for amateur radio use. If I were a more experienced ham or had more preparation time, I might have made a better argument. Hams do a lot of good with the 70-cm band. Please don't take it away.

Sincerely,
Michael B. Detweiler
Michael B. Detweiler, KC6SPC

Encl: Four copies of this letter.

WESTERN INTERTIE NETWORK

2040 Hawley Drive, Vista, CA 92084

Phone: 760/724-4020 Fax: 760/941-1601

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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,



Jay Bradshaw, KF6GOA
935 Georgia Street, #1
Imperial Beach, CA 91932
(619) 423-7637

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JUN 9 1998

FCC MAIL ROOM

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

June 4, 1998

To: RM-9267
FCC

Re: 420 to 450 MHZ band

Gentlemen:

I am opposed to Land Mobile Communications Council petition seeking access to 70 cm band.

We use this band in amateur radio and do public service including weather spotting and sharing of weather information to help protect the public. Our area has had numerous tornados this year and this public service by hams is very important.

Sincerely,



Tom Gover N9PLB
204 N 22nd
Mattoon, IL 61938
tgover@advant.com
217 235 1572

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: RM9267

Dear Sir,

It is important to keep a reserve. You never know when you have to pinch-hit, or substitute for an injury!

To that end, it is a unique thing for me to ask for anyone to regulate my business opportunities (I am a sub-contractor within the broadcast industry) however; I believe the full and complete commercial use of the radio frequency spectrum does not adequately meet the unexpected needs of the citizenry.

Why would I turn away business? Because; it is good for America! Presently the Amateur Radio Service utilizes the aforementioned space and is the "Bench" player the citizenry must have available for the unexpected.

It is my belief that as a citizen/businessman, the Good of America comes first.

Sincerely

Edward W. Ross
Technical Specialties

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JUN 9 1998

FCC MAIL ROOM

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Dear Sirs:

I would like to submit my comments for RM-9267
After studying the European Band Plan for 430-440, there seems to be plenty of room for ATV and other modes. Since Canada has 430-450, I believe we should adapt this plan. We could reach a compromise with Land Mobile. Give them 420 to 430 exclusive. Give Amateurs 430 to 450 exclusive. There would be a good potential for interference between Land Mobile and Amateur FM repeater operations in the 440 to 450 MHz band because this is where the Amateur repeaters are at. Being the trustee of a 440 repeater, I feel it would cause unnecessary hardship to 440 repeater users and owners.

Sincerely,
Thomas Warnock, WB8WIV
5/31/98

*Thomas Warnock
Cadillac, Michigan*

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OET

908 Narnia Lane
Olympia, WA 98502
June 2, 1998

RE: "RM 9267"

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

Dear Commissioners,

I have held an amateur radio license for forty years and been actively involved in commercial communications and Radio/TV broadcasting as well. As a result I have a broad perspective on the demand for spectrum space. I understand and sympathize with the Land Mobile Communication Council's request, RM 9267, for spectrum in the 440 amateur radio/military band. With a view of my mixed experiences, both commercial and amateur, I submit that this spectrum request is bogus and inept at best, outrageous in many respects, and should not be allowed to occur. It shows a total misunderstanding of the present use of the space, or, more cynically, it shows a callous disregard for a great community of users. It utterly fails to take into account the thousands of repeaters and linking systems and tens of thousands of 440 MHz transceivers now in use by individual amateur radio operators. It fails to take into account the uses of this investment for emergency life saving support. It does not, of course, address the cost of, or the source of this equipment - individual amateur radio operator's pocketbooks. For these reasons it is a tactless, arrogant request of no merit whatsoever.

That the amateur radio operators do life saving work with these frequencies is indisputable. That the loss of this spectrum will destroy the infrastructure that makes such life savings support possible is certain. The 440 MHz band is very, very actively used. It is second only to the two meter band in activity and is often the only technical choice for linking systems. In the end it is the citizens of the country who will lose, lose their lives to this blatant frequency grab. They will lose their lives to this rip off because the amateurs will not be able to recover from this loss. Many amateur systems will simply shut down, forever.

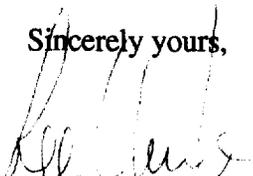
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I suggest that if this proposal goes forward, then the beneficiaries of the frequency reallocation, the Land Mobile Communications Council, should underwrite ALL costs created by the change. That is, assign them the tasks of purchasing and replacing the obsolete military and amateur equipment they displace. Assign them the responsibility for the redesign of the military and amateur equipment now so well understood as a result of years of careful development. Assign them all the hourly costs of installing alternate equipment. If they'll totally underwrite the changes, and assuming alternate frequencies are available, I'd have no objection to this proposal.

Of course, similar frequencies above and below 440 are equally congested. I'm sorry. But destroying an effective, functioning system comprised of a hundred thousand users of life saving equipment for the economic benefit of the LMCC's backers is not a beneficial trade. The public's right to life itself outweighs the LMCC's economic interests.

Please hear me: this proposal, desirable as it may be, is on balance fatally flawed and should be rejected.

Sincerely yours,



Lee Chambers
WB7UEU

May 26, 1998
 4353 Napa Valley Drive
 Bellbrook, OH 45305

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

RE: **Comments Opposing RM-9267**

Dear Sir:

I am filing these comments opposition to Petition for Rulemaking RM-9267, filed by the Land Mobile Communications Council.

I have been an amateur radio operator for nearly 25 years. I hold an Amateur Extra class license, callsign N8UR, and I am an active user of amateur radio bands ranging from 160 meters through 33 centimeters. I also hold a General (formerly First Class) Radiotelephone Operator License. I am Vice President and a member of the Board of Directors of Tucson Amateur Packet Radio, Inc. ("TAPR"), and am also Vice President and one of the trustees of the Miami Valley FM Association of Amateur Radio Operators, Inc. ("MVFMA"). In filing these comments, however, I speak only for myself and not for either TAPR or MVFMA.

Reallocation of primary status in the 420-430 MHz and/or 440-450 MHz band segments to the Private Mobile Radio Service ("PMRS") would have a significant adverse effect on the amateur radio community, and on me personally. The LMCC makes the claim, without evidence or justification, that Amateur Radio Service ("ARS") stations could operate in this spectrum on a shared, secondary basis with PMRS stations. Should PMRS become the primary user of these frequencies, I am convinced that current ARS activities would be significantly disrupted, and may prove entirely impractical.

Loss of these band segments would negatively impact the emergency communications capability of the ARS. As described below, these frequencies are used in Southwestern Ohio for both voice and data communications in support of public service activities such as the National Weather Service "SKYWARN" program. In addition, such disruption of long-established ARS systems would have a significant economic impact on me as well as thousands of other amateur radio operators and clubs who have made substantial investments in equipment for use on these frequencies.

I am personally involved in the operation of two voice repeater systems in Dayton, Ohio, operating in the 440-450 MHz segment (one owned by me, and the other by the MVFMA). The total investment in these two systems is over \$4000, not including the

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hours of effort required to install and maintain them. These are only two of several dozen repeaters operating in the 440-450 MHz segment in southwestern Ohio, each representing a substantial investment. In addition to voice repeater operation, both the 420-430 and 440-450 MHz band segments are also widely used for link and control channels connected with repeaters operating in other bands.

I am also involved in the operation of a 19.2kbps packet radio network that uses numerous frequencies in the 420-430 MHz segment to provide data communication between Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton, Ohio. Loss of this segment would remove the primary packet radio link between these three metropolitan areas, and would obsolete over \$5000 worth of equipment, not including the significant effort spent by a number of individuals and organizations to install and maintain this sophisticated data network.

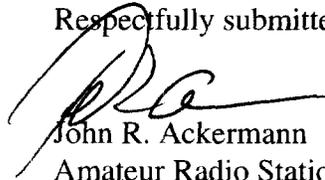
Finally, scores of hams in the Dayton, Ohio area, and thousands more nationally, own voice transceivers and data radios which operate in the 440-450 MHz segment. The hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in this equipment would likely be lost if RM-9267 is adopted.

These economic losses may seem small by some measures, but it should be remembered that nearly all this investment has been made by individuals or small clubs funded primarily by membership dues. Further, this investment has been made for reasons that have nothing to do with profit and everything to do with public service.

RM-9267 would not result solely in economic loss. Systems in these band segments provide important emergency communications service. For example, the digital network described above is used to link SKYWARN severe weather spotters to the National Weather Service office in Wilmington, Ohio. A voice repeater in the 440-450 MHz segment is used for liaison between SKYWARN net control stations spread across southwestern Ohio. There is no guarantee that these operations could realistically be shifted to other bands if they were no longer permitted at 420-430 or 440-450 MHz.

I believe that adoption of RM-9267 would significantly hurt the ARS and its ability to comply with its charter to serve the public interest. It would also hurt individuals who have invested in amateur radio equipment to support that charter. This petition should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Ackermann
Amateur Radio Station N8UR

Enclosure: Original and four photocopies

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JUN - 9 1998

Before the **FCC MAIL ROOM**
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

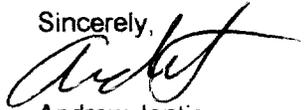
I am writing in opposition to the LMCC proposal in RM-9267 to re-allocate the Amateur Radio 420-430 and 440-450 MHz bands to shared access to private land mobile services.

Further, I strongly encourage you to ask the FCC to not only deny the LMCC proposal but to also request that the FCC re-establish Amateur's historical co-primary status in the entire band from 420-450 Mhz.

I am a licensed Amateur Radio operator and that the 420-450 MHz Amateur Radio band is the second most used VHF/UHF allocation of the Amateur Radio Service. As a licensed operator, the band is used to meet the goals of Part 97.1. These goals include emergency communications support, providing technical self-training, advancement in the radio art, and for data communications.

The idea that sharing between private land mobile and the Amateur Radio Service is totally unworkable. The private land mobile and Amateur Radio have mutually incompatible goals. I believe it is important to note that Amateurs have shared, can share, and will continue to share our VHF/UHF allocations with mutually compatible services such as government organizations.

I would like to emphasize again that sharing between private land mobile and Amateur Radio is unworkable. I respectfully request that you DENY the request of the LMCC as stated in RM-9267, to re-allocate the 420-430 and 440-450 MHz Amateur allocations to shared status with private land mobile. I instead request that you restore the historical Amateur co-primary status to these bands.

Sincerely,

Andrew Jentis
N6XKN

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC, 20544

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