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 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 "sharing" 902-928 MHz who ordered hams off the air), "sharing" means that Amateur operations 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 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

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services: "sharing", as in the AVL example, will result in the loss of 420-430 and 440-450 MHz by the Amateur 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 with providing emergency communications via Amateur Radio using the 420-450 MHz band:

- ****** Insert your list of supported agencies here ******

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,

Ron Moore
KB6OT
2745 Ripley Rd
Loomis, Calif.
95650

JUN 1 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

re: RM-9267

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Attn: Secretary
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

John W. Kelly
10670 S. Lowell rd.
DeWitt, Mi. 48820
May 19, 1998

In the Matter of the LMCC's proposal
to REALLOCATE THE 70-CM BAND TO PMRS RM-9267
Titled, "Opposition to the LMCC's Request to Reallocate Primary Status
of 70-cm to the Private Mobile Radio Service

To: The Chief; Private Wireless Division

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

OBJECTION TO

REALLOCATION OF PRIMARY 70-CM STATUS TO PMRS

I am writing this letter to express my opposition to the Land Mobile Communications Council's (LMCC) request that primary user status of the70-cm band be reallocated from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS). I am a radio amateur, and we currently use the 70-cm band for coordinating emergency responses in Clinton Co, Michigan. Examples of our public service usage include tornado and severe weather spotting, back up emergency communications for local police, fire and ambulance, and civil defense communications with our RACES group. I feel strongly that the public would be best served by denying RM -9267, and preserving the 70-cm band for military and amateur usage.

Thank you,

John W. Kelly AA8LF

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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 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 "sharing" 902-928 MHz who ordered hams off the air). "sharing" means that Amateur operations 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 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 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 with providing emergency communications via Amateur Radio using the 420-450 MHz band:

- ****** Insert your list of supported agencies here ******

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,

Joseph Struzzano WC6BWZ
5435 Yellow Pine Way
Sacto, Calif
95841

HOLMESBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 6253
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136

Before the:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of	)	
Proposed Reallocation of	)	
420 to 430 MHz and 440 to	)	RM 9267
450 MHz from the Federal	)	
Government to the Private	)	
Mobile Radio Service	)	

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 24, 1998

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

On behalf of the 100 members of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, located in Philadelphia, PA, I want to **raise strong opposition** to the Land Mobile Communications Council proposal in RM-9267 to reallocate access to the 420-430/440-450 MHz band segments.

The Holmesburg ARC has a long history of providing public service and emergency communications in the Philadelphia area. Club members have maintained active roles in supporting the Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross, the National Disaster Medical System, the City of Philadelphia, the National Weather Service, as well as many community organizations such as the March of Dimes, Multiple Sclerosis Society, East Coast Collegiate and US Pro Cycling, and several community parades. The Club's wide area 2 meter repeaters are linked on the 420-430 band. In addition our members sponsor and maintain repeater systems in the 440-450 band segment. Each of these amateur radio systems are made available to the community in times of need.

The average cost of an individual's equipment could be between $300 and $700. The cost of a repeater could average $4000-5000. Within the Holmesburg Club alone members have invested over

$40,000 of their **own money** to provide critical communications in times of need. Any expenditure of this size would be considered a **capital expenditure** by most businesses. We request that you not allow this considerable investment to go to waist.

We, the members of the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club, respectfully request that the Commission deny this proposal by the LMCC for the use of radio spectrum currently being used by amateur radio operators.

Sincerely,

Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO
President - HARC
3341 Sheffield Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19136

Before the

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20554
27 May 1998

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

TO: The Secretary,

Federal Communications Commission

STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO RM-9267

I am writing in opposition to the LMCC proposal in the RM-9267 to re-allocate the Amateur Radio 420-430 and 440-450 MHz bands to shared access to private land mobile services. I further strongly encourage the Commission to not only deny the LMCC proposal but to also request that the FCC re-establish the Amateur's historical co-primary status in the entire band from 420-450 MHz.

The past importance of amateur radio in public service cannot be overstated. Amateur radio operators have provided and continue to provide essential communications during time of public emergency.

The 420-450 MHz Amateur Radio band is the second most used VHF/UHF allocation of the Amateur Radio Service. In my own usage of the 420-450 MHz band I use frequencies in both of the proposed groups. I have constructed and put into operation a group of repeaters with linking radio equipment to allow wide area coverage for the amateur community to be able to use. In time of past emergency activity I have and will continue to use this system for and in support of the RED CROSS, CSEPP, BOY SCOUT and other organizations. Our system is also relied upon by local government agencies to help support their training operations by our volunteer operators. Sharing of these frequencies with the proposal of the LMCC in completely non-workable. Interference and congestion of this heavily used band would not be acceptable and the effectiveness of all systems would be in question.

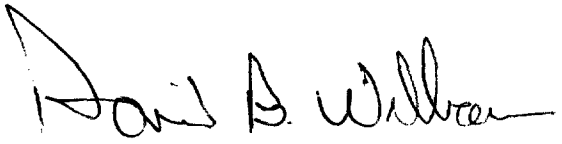
I also utilize the 430 MHz band for weak signal satellite communications. I also experiment with new designs of equipment and procedures in these precious frequencies. Untold advances in the communications industry and technology have been born of this type of activity. Further

infringement and congestion upon the 430 MHz region would render these activities dead.

Again I urge and request that the petition of the LMCC RM-9267 be denied.

The loss of the 420-430 and 440-450 MHz bands from the Amateur Radio Service would be detrimental in performance of its public duties during time of emergency.

Regards,



David B Williams
927 East Violet Drive
Sandy, Utah 84094
(801)-576-9234 Home
(435)-843-3260 Work
WA7GIE

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Http://www.warn.org

05/27/98 1:22 AM

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 enclosed four copies as required.

As the Public Information Officer for The Weather Amateur Radio Network (WARN), in Cincinnati, Ohio, my job is to disseminate information about our organization. It seems that a significant threat to our operation has been launched by the LMCC in their effort to have certain segments of the 420-450 MHz amateur radio spectrum reallocated for their use. We are an organization chartered by the National Weather Service (NWS) - Wilmington, Ohio office to provide real-time severe weather observations as part of the NWS administered Skywarn program. The Wilmington, Ohio office of the NWS alone provides severe weather warnings to over five million people. Similar operations are in place in NWS offices across the United States.

Our operation uses portions of the frequencies in question extensively for voice and data communications. All of our operations are provided at no cost to the NWS. All equipment is privately owned and maintained by individuals and clubs that by law are not allowed to receive any compensation for our efforts. The loss of these frequencies would likely do serious and irreparable harm. Most of our equipment would become obsolete and many clubs and individuals could not afford to replace it. Our services would be lost as a resource.

Reallocation of primary status in 420-430 MHz and/or 440-450 MHz band segments to the Private Mobile Radio Service ("PMRS") would have a significant adverse affect 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 secondary basis with PMRS stations.

I am also a member of several other amateur radio groups. Among those are units that provide emergency and disaster relief communications to the American Red Cross and the Hamilton County (Cincinnati) Emergency Management Agency. Again, in times of emergency, we provide free communications to official government agencies as well as to other groups and individuals. Similar organizations across the country provide similar services. Many use the 420-450MHz band extensively for voice and data communications. The loss of these frequencies could disrupt the ability of these organizations to communicate when it is needed most.

Finally, hundreds of thousands of hams nationwide have invested in equipment operating on these bands at great personal expense for reasons that have nothing to do with profit and everything to do with public service. The investment would likely be lost if RM-9227 were adopted. This would cause great hardship for many hams

Sincerely,

Michael Nie – KB8VMX
Public Information Officer
Mnie@fuse.net
(513) 741-9068

2890 Robers Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45239

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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 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 "sharing" 902-928 MHz who ordered hams off the air), "sharing" means that Amateur operations 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 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 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. 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,

Oliver A. Larsen

Oliver A. Larsen, W7WIA
14515 82nd Ave E.
Puyallup, WA, 98375

May 25, 1998

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 proposal to reallocate the 420-430 MHz and 440-450 MHz frequency spectrum to commercial, private, land mobile applications. I request that the Commission change the Amateur allocation from secondary to coprimary with the U.S. government. Before the Cold War, the Amateur Radio Service was a primary status user of these frequencies. The high growth of interest in Amateur UHF operations, providing for increased availability of experienced operators for emergency and public service communications, indicates that it is time to restore Amateur Radio's 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.

Amateur Radio can 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 commercial private land mobile services.

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.

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 probably not work, as indicated by prior efforts to share the radio spectrum with commercial services. 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 co-primary status in the entire band 420-450 MHz.

Sincerely,

Peter Grace, KB1CVH
92 Perkins St 3
Somerville, MA 02145-3347
Email: pgrace@world.std.com

May 26, 1998

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

In the Matter of	)	
The Land Mobile Communications Councils (LMCC)	)	
PETITION FOR RULEMAKING	)	RM-9267
Request for the Immediate Reallocation of	)	
420 to 430 MHz. and 440 to 450 MHz.	)	
From the Federal Government to the	)	
Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS) on a Primary Basis.	)	

OBJECTION TO REQUEST FOR FREQUENCY REALLOCATION OF THE 420 TO 430 MHz. and 440 to 450 MHz AMATEUR RADIO BANDS.

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

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society (RARS)
Officers and Board of Directors
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, NC 27619

May 29, 1998

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing this letter to respectfully request that you deny the LMCC's request for reallocation of the 420 to 430 MHz. and 440 to 450 MHz. from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS) on a primary basis. Amateur Radio now enjoys the use of 420 to 450 MHz on a secondary basis, and the 430 to 440 MHz segment is an international allocation.

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RARS is an association of 325 Amateur Radio operators located in central North Carolina. We are a non-profit corporation dedicated to public service. We are responsible for providing emergency communications support to the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as well as the Wake County EOC. We actively support the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), and the National Weather Service's SkyWarn program. In addition, RARS is very active in public service operations such as Walk-a-thons, bike-a-thons and other activities in support of the March of Dimes, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Special Olympics, and many other charitable organizations.

The 70-cm band is the second most heavily used VHF/UHF Amateur Radio band. It has substantial FM repeater, Packet radio, and radio control link operations in the 440 to 450 MHz segment. This band is absolutely essential for FM repeater operations which are heavily used for emergency communications and public service, especially ARES and SkyWarn operations.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society operates two UHF repeater systems, on 444.525 MHz and 444.95 MHz. Many of our members have invested several hundred dollars each in base station, mobile, and hand held portable equipment to operate through these and other UHF repeaters. This equipment not only brings its owners no direct revenue, but is prohibited by law from bringing revenue to its owners in any form. We have done this because of our dedication to emergency and public service communications. These activities would be severely crippled if Amateur Radio lost its use of these frequencies.

Amateur Radio's primary contribution to the public comes from Emergency and Public Service communication. UHF repeaters are an important element of that service. Here are some examples.

We regularly use 440 MHz repeaters to relay SkyWarn spotter reports to the National Weather Service office in Raleigh. Recently, the Newport, NC, NWS office suffered a failure of their Doppler RADAR system. During the outage, a line of severe thunderstorms developed in the Newport coverage area, and a tornado watch was issued. The Raleigh NWS office provided backup RADAR coverage for the Newport office. But, Raleigh's RADAR resolution was limited due to the great distance involved. Amateur Radio operators used 440 MHz repeaters to link SkyWarn spotters in the Newport area directly to the Raleigh RADAR operator, more than 100 miles away. This allowed the Raleigh RADAR operator to hear immediate, first-hand reports of conditions on the ground in areas the RADAR indicated might be experiencing severe weather.

When Hurricane Fran swept through North Carolina in 1996, these same Amateur 440 MHz. repeaters provided uninterrupted communications between the Wilmington and Raleigh NWS offices during the peak of the storm.

Much of our public service activity is accomplished on VHF repeaters, using low power, hand held equipment. Although our VHF spectrum is full, there are still many areas where hand held coverage is poor. We rely on UHF to provide coverage in those areas, through complete UHF repeater systems, or by cross-band mobile links between UHF hand helds and VHF repeaters.

The 70 cm band is the lowest Amateur frequency that high speed packet radio and ATV are permitted. Due to bandwidth limitations, these types of communications would only be possible on the microwave bands if Amateurs were to lose 20 MHz of that band. Due to propagation conditions and path loss considerations at microwave frequencies, these modes of operation would be severely impacted.

The 420 to 430 MHz segment is heavily used for Amateur Television (ATV) repeaters. It is the only allocation below 900 MHz. for this mode of operation. It would be impossible to share these frequencies with the LMRS.

The 70 cm ATV frequencies provide for the easiest and least expensive introduction of ATV to Amateur Radio operators and non-licensed experimenters as well, because of the ability to use "Cable Ready" TV sets and VCRs as ATV receivers (the ATV channels of 421.25 and 428.25 MHz correspond to Cable channels 57 and 58). If the 420 to 430 MHz segment is lost, it would severely impact many Amateur Radio operators who have invested a significant amount of money in ATV. It would put ATV operation out of reach to many people who could not afford the much more expensive equipment required for operation at 903 MHz and above.

Some of our members have invested several thousand dollars of their personal funds in ATV equipment. If the LMCC's request for primary assignment of the 420 - 430 MHz. were met, our member's investments would be destroyed.

The LMCC seems to recognize Amateur Radio's value and record of service. Rather than proposing total elimination of Amateur Radio in the selected spectrum, they propose sharing the band, with Amateur Radio taking a secondary, non-interfering position. However, they make no suggestions as to how this arrangement might work.

We don't think sharing is feasible. Amateur Radio and PMRS systems would both use the same mode – narrow band FM. In most metropolitan areas, each new PMRS system would eliminate an existing Amateur system. To paraphrase a point made by the LMCC in paragraph 101 of their own request, "The co-existence of PMRS and Amateur Radio systems in a single allocation will inevitably lead to one result -- the eventual elimination of Amateur users on those bands." The LMCC's offer to share spectrum should not tip the balance of this request in their favor.

Amateur Radio is currently secondary to the US Government in the 420-450 MHz. band. Here in North Carolina, the government's principle use of the spectrum is for RADAR. Amateur signals do not disrupt the RADAR operation at all, and while the RADAR signals do occasionally disrupt Amateur communications, the effect is minor and we have co-existed with very few problems for many years.

The LMCC suggests the possibility of making some spectrum available to Amateurs in the 1400 MHz area. While we appreciate the thought, it would be a very unfair trade. The LMCC points out that their own need for 450 MHz spectrum is based on immediate equipment availability. They say they could use existing equipment at 450 MHz, while hardware at 1400 MHz and above has not been developed to suit their needs.

Meanwhile, thousands of Amateurs would be left with useless UHF equipment that was purchased with personal funds. There is no equipment available to suit Amateur needs in the 1400 MHz area, either. The large PMRC market is much more likely to spur hardware development for those frequencies than the Amateur market could ever provide.

Conclusion:

The LMCC has requested the immediate reassignment of the 70 cm band to them as primary users. This would impose a heavy financial burden on thousands of Amateur Radio operators and would cripple emergency and public service operations across the country.

Please consider the track record of Amateur Radio's contribution to emergency communications across the country during the many tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters that our country has experienced during the past many years. Future emergency communications operations would be severely hampered if the LMCC's demands for the 70 cm band are granted.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the Commission to deny the LMCC's request to reallocate the Government/Amateur Radio spectrum between 420-450 MHz.

Thank you for considering our comments in making your decision.

Sincerely,
Officers and Board of Directors,
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

President: Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Cary, NC
Vice President: Pat Fix KE4FCJ, Cary, NC
Secretary: Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Cary, NC
Treasurer: Mike Murphy WA4BPJ, Raleigh, NC
Past President: Cyndi Pearce KD4ACW, Cary, NC
Repeater Chair: Bernard Blackmon KC4UPX, Cary, NC
ARRL Liaison: Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Raleigh, NC
Education Director: Lynn Pitegoff KO4QH, Raleigh, NC
Net Manager: Mike Milan KE4OQO, Cary, NC
Director at Large: Charlie Brown W4VFJ, Raleigh, NC
Director at Large: Wilbur Goss WD4RDT, Raleigh, NC

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 27, 1998

original

424 1/2 Nordale Ave

Dayton, OH 45420-2332

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 15 years. I hold an Amateur Advance class license, callsign Ke8tq, and I am an active user of amateur radio bands ranging from 160 meters through 33 centimeters. I am the Senior Director 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 MVFMA.

Reallocation of primary status in 420-430 MHz and/or 440-450 MHz band segments to the Private Mobile Radio Service ("PMRS") would have a significant adverse affect on the amateur radio community, and on me personally. The LMCC makes the claim, without evidence or justification, that ARS stations could operate in this spectrum on a secondary basis with PMRS stations. Should PMRS activity become primary user of these frequencies, I am convinced that current Amateur Radio Service ("ARS") activities would be significantly disrupted, and may prove entirely impractical.
In addition to reducing the emergency communications capability of the ARS, such disruption of long-established ARS systems would have a significant economic impact on me as well as thousands of other amateur radio operators who have made significant investments in equipment for use on these frequencies.

I am personally involved in the operation of one voice repeater station in the 440-450 MHz segment owned by the MVFMA.
The total investment in that system is over $1500, not including the hours of effort required to install and maintain it.

I am also involved in the operation of a 19.2kbps data network that uses 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 major metropolitan areas, and would obsolete over $5000 worth of equipment, not including the significant effort spent by a number of organizations to install and maintain this sophisticated data network. Finally, scores of hams in the Dayton, Ohio area - including me - and thousands 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-9227 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, and it has been made for reasons that have nothing to do with profit and everything to do with public service.

RM-9227 would not result solely in economic loss, however. 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 to provide voice liaison between Skywarn net control stations spread over a sixty mile radius. There is no guarantee that these operations could be accommodated on other bands if they were no longer permitted at 420-430 or 440-450 MHZ.

I believe that adoption of RM-9227 would significantly hurt the ARS and its ability to comply with the ARS 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,

Frederick M. Peerenboom
Amateur Radio Station KE8TQ

Enclosure: Original and four photocopies

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Before the

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20554

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

To: The Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION TO RM-9267

Objection to Proposal For an Allocation of the Spectrum from the Amateur Radio Service from 420 MHz to 430 MHz and 440 MHz to 450 MHz for the Private Mobile Radio Services

Contents:

Part I – Introduction

I am writing in opposition to that part of the Land Mobile Communications Council's (LMCC's) proposal that recommends reallocation of parts of the 420 MHz to 450 MHz Amateur Radio band. I am a technical writer who has gained technical training and skills from the Amateur Radio service, fulfilling in part the requirements of Part 97 of the FCC regulations which challenge the Amateur Radio Operator to be self-trained in the technical and communication arts, and this proposal would negate the FCC's own mandate for private citizens to develop themselves in this way.

The proposal at hand smacks at that section of Part 97 for future generations of people like me who enter the technical and communication fields through nontraditional channels. The Commission has developed a growth program that will make necessary this room for growth of the Amateur service, yet LMCC proposes to take away this

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spectrum space; almost in defiance of the Commission's plans. The Volunteer Examination program recognizes the value and integrity of the Amateur Radio Operator community and its decentralization promotes the growth of the Amateur service.

Part II – Personal Statement of Opposition

Statement of Personal Impact: I have invested a significant amount of my disposable income on equipment usable on the 420 MHz to 450 MHz band. I use this equipment for public service work and for personal development. I would be personally impacted if the frequency band were to be reallocated, and my ability to provide service to others would be handicapped. I use this equipment typically to assist the American Red Cross during its activities assisting in community public service events. I also use this equipment to assist individuals whom I find at roadside who have emergency (that is, health and welfare) communication needs. I am using this equipment to develop my technical skills further, and without the frequencies to use, I would have to revert to more expensive means that are less convenient to acquire. My personal income could be impacted if the frequencies were not available for me to use, because of the loss of use of the equipment already bought.

Although I am formally trained in the humanities, my profession requires technical competence. I have gained this competence through Amateur Radio and want to see its training ground untouched and unhampered for future generations of workers in the technical and communications fields. Without the frequencies in which to learn, the proposal counteracts the FCC's own requirements and prevents fulfillment of the assignment.

Impact to my employer: I cannot quantify the revenue my employers have gained from my work, but if it were not for the availability of frequency spectrum for me to communicate and experiment with, my skills would not be as keen as they are, and I and my employer would suffer for my lack of skill. As I mentioned earlier, I am self-trained at my own expense. I and my employer both benefit from the experience I have gained using this part of the spectrum for training. I owe a debt of gratitude to the Amateur Radio service and to the FCC for allowing its existence in its evolving state, but I could not have progressed to my career status and employment level if the spectrum were not