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

2840 139th Ave SE
#14
Bellevue, WA 98005
June 14, 1998

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Subject: RM 9267

Ladies and Gentlemen:

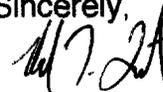
I am submitting this letter as comment in the matter of RM 9267, the petition of the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) for the reallocation of radio spectrum currently assigned to the Federal Government and the Amateur Radio Service, specifically 420-430 MHz and 440-450 MHz. I strongly oppose this petition, and I urge to Federal Communications Commission to disapprove it.

Amateur Radio has played a vital role in disaster relief throughout most of this century. Today, with roughly 700,000 Amateur Radio operators, the public service aspect of these volunteers has never been more relevant or more important. It seems that this year has been a particularly severe one for tornadoes, and the "SKYWARN" network of radio amateurs has been quite busy, utilizing the very spectrum requested by the LMCC to save lives in the midwestern United States. We may never know how many lives were actually saved by these brave and dedicated volunteers, but it is clear that no current organization or agency is in a position to provide such vital services if the LMCC petition is granted.

Amateur Radio Service volunteers are also involved in countless other public service contributions, some organized and some in response to unforeseen events. In fact, I was privileged to have been a beneficiary of one such contribution on May 29-30, 1998. As the Command Duty Officer at U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center Seattle, WA, I was contacted by an Amateur Radio Operator, who, through no less than 2 other Amateur Radio Operators was assisting a mariner in trouble off the coast. I was impressed with the professionalism and capabilities of the Amateurs involved, and I can honestly say that their assistance was instrumental in resolving this search and rescue case.

President George Bush called for a "thousand points of light" when he urged volunteerism in our great country. The Amateur Radio Service has responded with tens of thousands of volunteers using millions of dollars of their own equipment in service of their fellow countrymen and the world. Approving the LMCC Petition and allowing commercial interests to override public service would be like taking away the matches to light these thousand points. Please do not allow the priceless resource of the Amateur Radio Service to be buried under a profit motive. I urge you to disapprove RM 9267!

Sincerely,



Richard T. Leitner

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