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4810 Kerrville Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78413
July 12, 1998

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

Re: RM-9267

The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) petition referenced seeks assignment of additional spectrum for private wireless services, including both public safety and non-public safety users. I write in opposition to a portion of this spectrum reassignment.

One of the many spectrum bands that LMCC desires is the 420-450 MHz (70 cm) band, portions of which are available for amateur use on a secondary basis. There is a long history of cooperation between public safety agencies and the amateur radio community, especially in coordinating disaster relief and other emergency efforts. Amateur radio operations on the 70 cm band often provide the most effective and reliable on-scene and wide-area communications in the immediate aftermath of a major emergency such as a hurricane we might experience here in Corpus Christi. Amateur radio's 70 cm links would be vital for communications to and from South Texas in the event of such a storm. Adding substantial numbers of new primary users on the 70 cm band, as proposed by LMCC, would significantly reduce the availability of that spectrum for amateur radio operations in public service.

As an amateur radio operator, I have used amateur radio's 70 cm spectrum to provide on-scene communications for medical support of public events. Amateur radio provided the only reliable means of communications available immediately. When, *in extremis* situations, agencies have attempted to rely on other radio services to support the massive increase in communications traffic incident to disaster relief support, the limitations of other designated services to perform outside the norm became apparent. Amateur radio's ability to provide effective communications in the public service, through efficient, flexible use of the relative small amounts of assigned and shared spectrum, is renown.

Therefore, I strongly recommend against any reallocation of the 420-450 MHz band.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Hooper
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