

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir/Ms.,

As an Extra Class licensed Amateur Radio operator I am writing to state my objection to RM 11760 which requests changing current FCC Amateur Radio Licenses to be lifetime licenses rather than valid for 10 years. My objection is based on the observation that professional service providers licensed by Federal and State authorities on the basis of state-of-the-art knowledge all require periodic renewal in order to continue to enjoy the privileges of licensure. Like those individuals, Amateur Radio license holders are privileged to utilize portions of the amateur spectrum not allowed to persons not equally licensed.

As in other fields, the state-of-the-art knowledge base of Amateur Radio is constantly evolving. Such changes render prior skills and equipment obsolete. Without the relicensing mechanism licensees have no way to demonstrate that they have sufficient current knowledge in their field to safely and appropriately continue to exercise their license's privileges at current standards of practice. That lack of knowledge could inadvertently cause harm to themselves or others as a result.

Two examples suffice to illustrate this. The first is the change from wide to narrow band transmissions; the second is the growth of digital Amateur Band radio technology. Failure to gain a basic understanding of these two changes can lead even well-intentioned operators to create RFI unknowingly.

In sum, I believe it essential for Amateur Radio licensees demonstrate their continuing education. Relicensing may be annoying at times, but it is a key to maintaining the integrity of Amateur Radio. I ask the FCC to reject petition RM 11760.

Sincerely,

Anthony Fedanzo, KJ6ARL
Corte Madera, CA