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WT Docket No. 98-143

Enclosed are four (4) copies of my comments to WT Docket No. 98-143 regarding the FCC's proposal to restructure the Amateur Radio Service.



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List A B C D E

COMMENT

submitted by Bradley A. Farrell, 2239 William Penn Way, Lancaster, PA 17601 Page 1 of 2

I. Comment On FCC Proposal

ELEMENTS OF FCC PROPOSAL SUPPORTED/OPPOSED:

I **support** the Federal Communications Commission proposed framework to restructure the Amateur Radio licensing system so that the number of license classes would be reduced from six to four.

I **support** the FCC proposal to phase out the Novice class license, allowing Novice class operators to be eligible for examination credit for the telegraphy requirement for any class license.

I **support** the FCC proposal to establish the Technician class license as the entry level license so long as Technician class licensees are given operating privileges only above 30 MHz.

I **support** the FCC proposal to phase out the Technician Plus license class and allowing those licensed in that class to qualify for a General class license by passing written examination Element 3(B).

I **oppose** the FCC proposal to allow Novice operators to use all Morse code bands. Novice operators should be limited to using General class Morse code sub-bands at 200 Watts maximum output power.

PROPOSALS THE FCC SHOULD CONSIDER:

I **propose** that the FCC require Morse code proficiency at ten (10) words per minute for General and Advanced class privileges. The current thirteen (13) word per minute requirement should be eliminated.

I **propose** that the FCC require Morse code proficiency at fifteen (15) words per minute for Extra class privileges.

II. ARRL License Restructuring Proposal

I oppose, in its entirety, the American Radio Relay League proposal to restructure the Amateur Radio license framework. The ARRL plan, on its face, is inferior in many respects to the FCC proposal.

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IV. Retaining Morse Code Proficiency Qualification

The Morse code proficiency requirement for Amateur Radio should be retained for several reasons:

1. Morse code requires only simple transmitting gear and has, time and again, proved to be a reliable means of communication in emergencies when other modes of communication have not.
2. Morse code bridges the language barrier in international communication.
3. Morse code acts as a screen to keep lawless operators from creating problems on the Amateur Radio spectrum. Observance of FCC regulations on the Citizen Band was destroyed by widespread unlawful operations. Amateur Radio is too valuable a resource to permit this to happen.

IV. Preserve Amateur Radio Spectrum

Amateur Radio operators have, for eighty years, provided exceptional and valuable public service through emergency communications in times of disaster. Amateur operators purchase and maintain their own equipment and operating facilities without government support, and pay their own license fees. They do this because they are dedicated to providing an important public service. I urge the FCC to protect Amateur Radio spectrum from commercial and other interests so that the Amateur Radio tradition of public service may continue for many years to come.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully submitted,



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