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**Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M St., N.W. Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554**

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Subject: WT Docket 98-143

Ms. Salas,

11/24/98

In the matter of WT Docket 98-143 I, and most of my fellow Radio Amateurs, **feel strongly that the current Novice 5-wpm and General 13-wpm standards should be maintained.** Fully qualified Hams add tremendously to the community and even save lives. The FCC has a special obligation restore and uphold the traditional standards of the Amateur community. This is especially true in this age of de-regulation where self-policing is our primary means of maintaining order. The extraordinary self-discipline required of Hams to preserve some level of civility and service to the community, **is best indicated by the prospective Ham's willingness to master the International Morse Code.**

If the Federal Communication Commission lowers the bar to the level of Citizen's Band, then they had better be ready to increase their enforcement efforts and expenditures 100-fold! Many feel that the current level of discord on the HF bands is more the result of lax and/or fraudulent testing procedures, than FCC non-enforcement. The widespread use of waivers and other means of subverting the testing gauntlet has already demonstrated the disastrous results of lowered requirements. **Removing all remaining standards would be like cutting a hole into the undamaged side of the sinking Titanic to let all the nasty water out!**

Ms. Salas, as an inventor and manufacturer of products used by broadcasters all over the world, I implore you, and the Commissioners, to save a precious resource and training ground for future broadcasters and technicians. Ham Radio must be saved, **PLEASE KEEP THE CODE!**

Cordially,



Mike Dorrough

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