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November 20, 1998

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

Gentlemen,

In the matter of WT Docket 98 -143,

I am writing to file an opinion regarding the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making which proposes simplifying the license structure of the Amateur Service, including elimination of the 5 wpm CW based Novice and Tech Plus licenses.

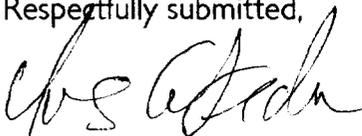
I strongly feel, based on my experience as a continuously licensed radio amateur operator since 1953, that the CW requirement be retained, and specifically that the testing method should call for the traditional one minute of solid copy.

I strongly believe lowering the CW license requirements will bring more crowding and lower operating standards to our HF bands. There is already considerable "dumbing down" of the technical standards on the HF bands, with an alarming number of new licensed amateurs exhibiting little or no understanding of some of the basic concepts of radio theory and practice.

The multiple choice style of examination in force for a few years now is unfortunately partly responsible. Guessing or rote memorization provides an easy potential path to making the grade; and no longer are applicants required to calculate results and draw actual schematic diagrams showing a real basic understanding of the technology.

I strongly would urge the FCC to continue CW testing at the present levels: 5 wpm minimum for the entry level CW only HF privileges and 13 wpm minimum for general CW and phone privileges.

Respectfully submitted,



Yves A. Feder  
Amateur Radio W1UX

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