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November 25, 1998

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

Subject: WT Docket 98-143

Gentlemen:

This is in regard to WT Docket 98-143 wherein the FCC has issued a Notice of Proposal Rule Making (NPRM) simplifying the license structure of the Amateur Radio Service.

I wish to inform you that there is a definite need to continue the CW testing at the present levels for various Radio Amateur Class licenses. I am speaking from experience having served my country as a Morse code intercept operator with the U.S. Army Security Agency. We must always have people available with special skills that our country can call upon in time of need. In addition, it places more of a value and "right of passage" in obtaining their Amateur Radio License. I support the continuation of CW testing at the present levels and feel that any change would lower the standards of qualifications for being a licensed Radio Amateur.

Sincerely,

Gerald Ortman W8UCW

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