

July 22, 1999

To: The Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC.

From: Del Schier
126 Old West Mountain Road
Ridgefield, CT. 06877

Dear Sirs,

I wish to comment on my support of RM9673 with no exceptions.

I have been an amateur radio operator for over 35 years. I have gained a great deal of knowledge experimenting with amateur radio and feel that it has been a direct benefit to my career in electronics.

I am an active extra class amateur radio operator and my activities include maintaining an FM repeater system, packet radio, amateur television, HF and satellite operation. I am however most interested in VHF, UHF and microwave long distance experimentation using narrow band modes. I enjoy all of the various propagation modes including EME. I also build most of my equipment and antennas especially my microwave stations.

I am the editor of the newsletter and am on the board of directors of the North East Weak Signal Group. This group is a VHF and above technical experimentation group of approximately 200 members. I am also active in two local amateur FM repeater groups and a member of the ARRL.

I strongly support the intent and purpose of RM9673. I fear that my enjoyment of the hobby is being threatened by FM and wide band operation in the limited weak signal portions of the band. My station is well equipped and situated on a hill. Almost any evening or weekend I hear FM interference in the narrow band portions of the VHF bands. I have confronted these other operators on FM on many occasions hoping to educate them as to proper operating practice and to inform them of the ARRL

band plan. The other operators either claim that they have no knowledge of ARRL band plans or feel that they are operating legally and that is all that they have to do. Some say that they are not ARRL members and do not need to follow what that organization promotes. I have also informed operators interfering with propagation beacons stations and they claim that they cannot hear the beacons with their FM receivers so they must not be causing interference.

The intent of RM9673 is to protect small portions of our VHF and UHF bands

for experimentation with narrow band modes and does not reference or prohibit any particular type of operation outside of those portions which is

not already used. I feel that this request for rule making is in keeping with the regulations for our HF bands will be simple and consistent.

I think that VHF spectrum usage was much different when the present rules

were written and should be updated to conform with current technology.

The advent of many new radios with all mode operation on VHF bands makes VHF operation more similar to HF and similar rules should be made provision for narrow band segments should that are protected from incompatible forms of modulation. This operation is a more efficient use of spectrum and should remain available as our bands get more crowded and the spectrum becomes more valuable.

Sincerely,

Del Schier

K1UHF