

Dear FCC;

I feel it is extremely important to preserve the lower portions of of the Amateur Radio VHF/UHF bands (normally referred to as weak-signal areas) for the following reasons....

- * The experimentation going on there with weak-signal modes.
- * Propagational studies using these modes.
- * International good will with amateurs of other Countries.
- * The outstanding distance records being achieved there (an obvious positive aspect of Amateur Radio).
- * Weak-signal operators on VHF/UHF are growing in numbers because of the exciting things going on there. This is important in showing that frequencies allocated to the Amateur Radio service are being utilized in a positive manner.

Why do I use the word "preserve"? Because of an ever-growing problem of encroachment by wide-band modes (such as FM) into these band segments. Here are some important points....

- * FM (for instance) already retains a very large portion of the bands in question.
- * In contrast, the weak-signal portion is very small indeed.
- * Wide band modes disrupt and destroy the weak signal work and activity being done there.
- * The inability of many wide band operators to abide by the existing bandplan (they continue to operate in weak-signal areas). Some requests made to them to abide by the band-plan are often met with outright defiance.

I ask that the FCC please strongly consider RM-9673 as a means of preserving a very small portion of the VHF/UHF spectrum for the radio pioneers that exist there (and the work they're doing on a daily basis). Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter.