

February 24, 2000

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau,
FCC - The Portals, 445 - 12th Street S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20554

Greetings,

It has come to my attention that you are considering a petition, RM-9807, for a rule change in regards to the 155-mile limit for CB radio communications.

As a long time CB operator, and all around radio enthusiast, I think that the removal of this unrealistic rule would be an excellent move.

It would not only bring regulations more in line with "the way things really work", thereby enabling the Commission's enforcement efforts to concentrate on more pressing matters, but show the CB community that they really can work with the Commission. The latter could encourage the CB community to take a more active role in self-policing the band.

I know that some, the ARRL in particular, may see this as a threat to the Amateur Radio Service. I think that their fears are unfounded. Indeed, such a rule change could actually benefit the Amateur service by allowing more people to experience the thrill of long distance radio communications and encourage them to pursue their Amateur license.

I also see, from the comments already filed, that others are concerned about increased interference to broadcast radio and television due to increased CB transmitter power output. While the petition in question does not request higher power output I do understand their concern.

I think that it is more likely, however, that such interference could actually be reduced, due the potential increase in self-policing and enforcement's increased ability to concentrate on such problems.

Please do whatever you can to see that this matter receives your prompt attention and approval.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chris Schmidt