

In the matter of Wormser, Adsit, and Dinelli; FCC Petition 98-143.

I urge the petition be denied.

I agree entirely with the FCC's position that proficiency in morse code is not predictive an individual's ability to contribute to the "advancement of the radio art."

The argument is often made that increasing the technical skills requirements for amateur radio is intended to keep out undesirable non-technical communications behavior associated with the Citizens Band and Family Radio services. While I can agree with the concern, I cannot agree with proposed solution.

PART 97 §97.1 (a-e) gives equal weight to technical and non-technical communications skills. Concerns about these non-technical communications skills, such as basic radio etiquette, would be better advanced by modification of the amateur license examinations to provide greater emphasis in this area. I have monitored more than one advanced class amateur operator who has engaged in malicious interference, PART 97 §97.101 (d), technical skill and code proficiency notwithstanding.

In today's world of surface mount technology and board-swap repairs, non-verbal communications skills, such as how to handle an emergency situation, are probably more relevant than the ability to distinguish between a triode and pentode.

Respectfully,

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