

I fully support and recommend adoption of the proposed rulemaking to create a Secondary Domestic Amateur Radio Allocation between the frequencies of 5.250 MHz and 5.400 MHz inclusion. This proposed allocation will provide the Amateur Radio Service a badly needed and highly utilitarian portion of radio spectrum to support short to mid-range emergency communications.

Florida's West Coast is highly susceptible to communications emergencies caused by a host of natural and manmade events. The threat of Tropical Weather disturbances, tornadoes, and our designation as lightning capital of the world has created a demonstrable need for the reliable, round the clock, station to station communications this band can provide. Unpredictable propagation on the existing 40 Meter and 75 Meter Amateur Radio bands makes it necessary to split emergency communications based on time of day. Furthermore, interference from commercial broadcast stations operating on the 40 Meter band severely limits the use of this resource, particularly during darkness hours in Europe. The proposed 5.250 MHz to 5.400 MHz assignment will allow emergency communicators to maintain constant contact to move essential Health and Welfare Traffic when other means of communications have been disrupted.

The creation of this 60 meter band will assure Amateur Radio operators who voluntarily support the National Weather Service SKYWARN program a reliable, point-to-point means of communicating vital and potentially life saving information. I urge you to act swiftly and favorably on this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Toth-NA4AR
Assistant Director - ARRL Southeast Division
Regional Amateur Radio Coordinator
West Central Florida SKYWARN Group
(serving National Weather Service-Tampa Bay)