

I 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 useful portion of radio spectrum for mid-range emergency communications.

The Virgin Islands have historically depended on amateur radio for disaster communications more than any other area in the FCC jurisdiction. After hurricane Marilyn amateur communication channels were the only ones open. We remain susceptible to communications emergencies particularly from storms but also from potential earthquakes.

In the past we have principally depended on the amateur 20 meter band however as the propagation cycle declines that band becomes less usable, particularly at night. 40 meters is not usable at night due to interference from South American broadcast stations which are even stronger here than on the mainland US. 80 and 75 meters are impacted by high noise levels and not regularly reliable particularly in summer months when storm threat is strongest.

The proposed 5.250 MHz to 5.400 MHz assignment will provide emergency communicators with another channel for emergency and Health and Welfare Traffic when other means of communications have been disrupted.

I urge the FCC to promptly adopt this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

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