

I submit that RM-10412 is an ill-conceived idea that fails to demonstrate forward thinking. I have been an Amateur Radio Operator for over 30 years, and I remember well the days of tubes and components large enough to be seen with the human eye. I also remember that such equipment was large, heavy, temperamental, severely lacking in features, power hungry, and anything but portable. Serviceability has its drawbacks. Today's handheld equipment is small, lightweight, reliable, fully featured, power efficient, and portable. It is also quite field serviceable with proper equipment. I have successfully serviced several handheld radios in the past two years. A 100 watt Weller soldering gun is not appropriate service equipment. I had to use a miniature controlled temperature soldering iron and some magnification to perform the repair, but it is quite possible. As an engineer, I work with miniature components daily. They get smaller every day, but these advances make more versatile equipment possible. Returning to the days of socketed devices and plug-in modules will increase size and cost while simultaneously reducing reliability. Rather than dumbing down the equipment, we should encourage sharpening up the service skills of the Amateur Radio community. The latter is in keeping with the Amateur Radio tradition of innovation and improvement. I encourage the commission to dismiss RM-10412.