Egbert C. Craig, Jr.
WA2SI

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To whom it may concern:

I oppose RM-10783.

Undoubtedly, there will be many comments filed re. this petition. Therefore, I will be brief and to the point. Although I am not new to radio and earned my GROL long before my amateur radio license, I am a relative newcomer to amateur radio. As such, I feel that I can offer an alternative view to many of the "old timers."

I believe that there is still a very important place for minimal Morse code proficiency testing in U.S. amateur radio licensing. I've been told that "proficiency" is the technically correct term, however, I do not feel 5-wpm represents Morse proficiency. I feel that the current 5-wpm Element 1 test is sufficient to require an individual to learn the Morse characters so that s/he may then make an *educated* decision as to whether or not s/he wishes to pursue CW further.

I would like to dispel two myths that I have repeatedly heard/read in the argument for dropping Element 1:

- The current Element 1 test acts as a filter to keep out CBers and other "insufficiently-dedicated" individuals.
- The current Element 1 test acts as a deterrent to newcomers to the hobby/service.

Along with being an amateur radio "newbie," I am also a CBer and Element 1 did not deter me in any way, shape, or form from upgrading my license class and *earning* HF privileges. If during the course of reviewing the comments filed re. RM-10783, this demographic is referred to while supporting the removal of Element 1, please do **not** include me. This "newbie" wholeheartedly supports the retention of Element 1 testing for the General and Extra license class licenses.

In closing, I would also like to remind those who believe that Morse code testing serves no "regulatory purpose" in amateur radio that there is an intangible quality at stake here too. It is part of our culture and tradition and therefore should not be removed from the *curriculum*.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Egbert C. Craig, Jr.

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