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27 Sept 03

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to convey my comments on FCC RM-10871.

I firmly believe that the present five word per minute testing requirement for HF privileges should be retained as well as the present band plan for CW. This includes the novice segment as it is currently. My reasoning is based upon; being a licensed amateur since 1952, being a US Army communicator during World War II and twenty five year in the US Army Reserve (2352 d Signal Communications Detachment) and having been a Volunteer Examiner for over five years. (64 test sessions). My reasoning is as follows:

1. simplicity CW communication can be initiated by new licensees, with a minimum investment in equipment and have a very reliable means of amateur communications.
2. spectrum usage may be maximized by use of a narrow (100 Hz) CW signal rather than the 2500 Hz plus of present sideband communications.
3. Yes, while a code test is perhaps a sieve, that requires dedication to master, this dedication is transferred to Amateur Radio as to make it a service rather than an ego thing. Having participated in ARES for many years I have observed this

I apologize for the hand written letter.

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Sincerely,

Harry C Vollmer