

RM-10868 by the Radio Amateur Foundation does not represent the best interest of Amateur Radio. Therefore, I ask you not to support this petition. The RAF proposal takes a pro-Morse Code stance, asking for a Code test for General and Extra. While I have no problem with the ARRL proposal for a Code test for the Extras, because the Extras are to be the elite, top rung of the ladder. Therefore, they should be able to operate all modes. The Generals, however, are the main body of the hobby and should not be required to test for CW. I feel that the CW portion of the bands should be protected for those who want to use this mode. The next problem for RAF proposal is rewriting all the test pools. This would put an unnecessary burden on the FCC. Next their proposal to keep the test pool out of the public domain is not realistic. With the number of VE's, it would only be a matter of time before it appeared on the internet. The next problem for the RAF proposal is limiting Amateurs from requesting Vanity Calls when they earn the right. This just brands the newest people in each Class for their proposed 2 year period. Finally, the RAF proposal asks for Digital Experimentation in a block of the 10 meter band and I do not support this proposal.

The RAF says that it is a thoughtful blueprint for the future of ham radio but I disagree wholeheartedly. I feel RAF represents only a portion of the hobby and is trying to force their views on the whole hobby. I ask you to not consider any part of RM-10868.