

I ask the Commissioners to deny this petition.

The arguments by Mr. Lowrance are unpersuasive.

If Morse Code was a matter of Homeland Security, every police officer, fireman, ambulance driver, and utility worker who uses radio would be learning Morse Code. The US Military would be learning Morse Code. That's not happening. And under current regulations, Amateur Radio Operators are not allowed to send "secure-coded" messages (unless one severely stretches the emergency traffic regulations). Frankly, to serve the purposes of Homeland Security, extensive training in network procedures would be far more useful.

CW should exist alongside other operating modes. It needs no special status. If folks care to use it, it will be used. The very nature of the service is experimental. New modes will be developed, and old modes will be retained, all on the basis of the interest of the participants.

No one is calling for the abolishment of CW as a mode. It has many fans. And those who chose not to learn Morse Code directly can still participate via computers that translate from tone to text, and vice versa. But it should not be an element of an examination for an amateur radio operator's license.

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