

To the FCC Commissioners: As a licensed amateur radio operator for more than 40 years (WA6FFA), a former U.S. Merchant Marine Radio Electronics Officer, a small business owner in the Mobile Data/Public Safety arena who has held a First Class Radio Telephone License (when those kinds of things mattered) and a 2nd Class Radio-Telegraph ticket, I can attest that Morse Code has been a foundation on which I built a career and traveled the world. I was but a kid at the age of 10 when I was first introduced to radio with a friend's crystal radio. In those 'ancient times' the prerequisite to the (Novice License) radio-club was to learn Morse Code. Entry was a mere 5 WPM, which anyone with the slightest amount of effort can master. I taught myself and then taught others. It can be done. While data communications and voice communications are in style, it would be in poor judgement to destroy one of the foundations of this hobby. I believe it serves no particular advantage to the amateur community to eliminate Morse. By eliminating the requirements, the FCC opens the doors to unqualified users who are unwilling to go through the rites of passage of this remarkable hobby. I support retaining Morse as prerequisite and encourage the Commission to retain some bandwidth for Morse operation in the High Frequency bands.

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