I am writing in protest of FCC NPRM proposal 05-235, which would eliminate any requirements for Morse Code (CW) for American amateur radio licensure. Further, I encourage you to accept the proposal of the American Radio Relay League to retain a CW requirement for the Extra class licensure.

Please consider the following points:

1) CW is still the last option for communications during times of man made and/or natural disasters and emergencies. My husband, also a ham, recently returned from the Mississippi Gulf with a deployment with the Red Cross Disaster Services after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He firsthand saw the failure of high tech communications systems, including but not limited to cellular phones, landline telephones, 800 Mhz systems and the Internet. Historically, look back at the lesson learned post-Titanic, when Morse Code became essential to all transportation emergency communications.

2) CW is the most efficient means of wireless communications available. It succeeds where digital and voice fail. CW equipment is portable, and can be run on batteries charged by a solar panel. There are many amateurs who routinely demonstrate such CW communications for recreation, while hiking in the wilderness or on DXpeditions..

3) CW is an international language, needed in a time when our interests are becoming more global. That is, CW is used by countries such as the Soviet Union and developing countries, where persons or governments can not afford expensive communications systems. Non emergency CW communications are a way for hams in all countries to reach out toward one another, regardless of language.

4) CW is still used by some military and special forces. It is rightfully known as the last form of communication. It has served us in past wars, and may be needed again.

5) Should there be no requirement for CW or code training, how many people would develop or become proficient at such a skill? CW itself could become another extinct language of communication.

6) Entry-level CW can be learned by almost anyone willing to put in effort and practice time. CW is not a barrier for amateurs wishing to increase their knowledge and practice of the radio arts. A review of the number of amateurs per licensure class shows this. Some Technician class amateurs are not interested in learning the minimal but advanced electronics necessary for General class licensure. However, when many Technicians upgrade, they are unable to have a HF station due to the cost of HF equipment and burdensome antenna restrictions in their communities. Moreover, with the elimination of CW for amateur licensure, the elimination of the CW sub-bands will surely follow. Such

administrative legislation of the FCC would be inconsiderate of great number of radio amateurs worldwide who continue to practice and enjoy CW communications. Because some radio amateurs find learning Code burdensome, there is no reason to remove the benefit many other hams derive from this unique aspect of our radio communications

7) Finally, keep in mind that the American Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) the national amateur radio association, also internationally respected, recommended retention of the entry level CW exam (5 Words per minute) only for the most difficult level of amateur licensure. I would hope that the FCC would listen to our august and respected voice for American amateur radio.

In closing, I reiterate my strong disagreement with the FCC proposal to eliminate any Morse Code requirements from any amateur radio licensure class. In this time of heightened national security, elimination of CW requirements is simply the wrong move for American amateur radio. I hope the FCC will at least follow the recommendations of the ARRL to retain an entry-level knowledge of Morse Code for the Extra Class amateur licensure. I sincerely appreciate your consideration of my input on this matter.

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