

Thank you for this chance to address RM-11306.

As a life member of the ARRL, I feel that the organization has lost touch with its members on this issue.

No compelling reason exists to change the existing band plans. In particular, the proposal for "semi-automatic" operation is unwise.

The reasonable way to divide operation is between human-to-human and machine-to-machine-or-human contacts. This is because data systems are infinitely persistent, and will get their messages through despite interference that would drive a human operator away.

Contrary to the ARRL's assertion, there is little need for additional HF data bandwidth on the amateur radio bands. This petition was crafted by a small group of people who wish to use the amateur bands as private internet email sources. This is not in keeping with the purposes of amateur radio, and duplicates existing commercial services for this "need."

The ARRL has, unwisely, cast its lot with a single overseas manufacturer of proprietary data transmission equipment. In doing so, they have ignored the wishes of their members. More importantly, the ARRL has ignored the well-being of the amateur radio community in the world.

As an Amateur-Extra class licensee who has been an active ham for more than 35 years, I urge you strongly to reject RM-11306.

Thank you for your consideration,

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