

Dear FCC, I would like to comment in favor of 05-235, the proposed No Code General License. The need for more Hams participating in RACES and ARES operations is now greater than ever in recent history. As was realized in Katrina, 2 Meter and 440 bands were over loaded and HF bands were needed where repeaters had been literally washed away. We here in southern CA face many of the same potential limitations post "the big one". By eliminating the 5-WPM CW requirement for General, it would allow Tech licensed RACES and ARES members like myself to (almost) immediately advance into the ability to use HF (phone) bands. The result would nearly double the number of badly needed HF qualified RACES and ARES personnel overnight! Another overlooked aspect in favor of the "no code General" is the effect it will have on persons suffering from ADD, Dyslexia and other learning disabilities that prohibit or greatly limit their ability to learn and/or decipher CW. In fact, I am surprised the ACLU has not already filed a lawsuit under the Americans with Disabilities Act on this matter. In conclusion, like the majority of my peers I also support keeping the CW requirement to obtain FCC licensing above General. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully, Jeffrey Sabatini KI6BCX