

I request the Commission deny the petitions filed by the ARRL on December 11, 2006. The rules have already been established to extend the extra class phone band down to 3600 kHz. To deny the amateur community access to this band segment as promised would be catastrophic. Thousands of amateurs have made the necessary changes to their equipment and antennas to begin utilizing this segment on Dec 15. The Commission granted access to this band by extra class operators based on the comments filed in this proceeding and decided it was in amateur radio's best interest to extend the phone band to 3600 kHz. The ARRL fell flat on it's face on this one and has now come up with a futile attempt to disrupt what extra class operators have been waiting for for many years...getting more elbow room on 80 meters to reduce congestion and interference. If the ARRL feels so strongly about WinLink they should leave things well enough alone for now and propose a fix for WinLink under a different proceeding. One alternative would be to move the WinLink operations, as few as they are, into the 3500-3600 kHz portion of 80 meters where other similar modes will co-exist.