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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Comments on Ex Parte Presentation filing, RM-I 1306
From the American Radio Relay League
February 14, 2007

These comments **are** filed in opposition to the content and substance of the Changing position of the ARRL on its won proposal to establish regulation by Bandwidth in the amateur radio service.

The subject comments amount to a substantial change in the scope and intent Behind the original filing that became the RM-1 1306. The changes are so drastic **as** to amount to a de-facto withdrawal of the proposal by the ARRL.

In responding to a query about this, **an** elected League official took the position in a reply that the League did not abandon regulation by bandwidth directly but submitted this latest proposal due to the overwhelmingly negative response in the filings accompanying the original proposed rule. Since none of the HF bands would be affected any longer by the resulting rule changes but all of it constrained to the VHF and higher bands where it has little impact, I fail to **see** the logic of this argument. The **crux** of this ARRL's position is to seem foolish (at least to this person) and vacillate on its own request rather than do the public relations work necessary to support its own proposal.

The purpose of this comment is to encourage the Commission to ignore this Latest attempt by the League to manipulate and obscure the purpose and need for the original concepts promoted in RM-1 1306. At this juncture, RM1 1306 should be allowed to stand or fall on its merits. This latest version from the ARRL is a totally different proposal that should be treated **as** such.

The simple facts are **these**:

- 1) The amateur service must have the ability to move the state of the **at** Forward or be forever imprisoned in ancient technology. Adopting a Forward looking regulatory mechanism is essential to our role **as** experimenters in communication technology.
- 2) The enormous bandwidth restrictions on semi-automatic data operation with only 500 Hz. Allowed means that effective experimentation with modem digital modes (data and voice) is all but impossible.

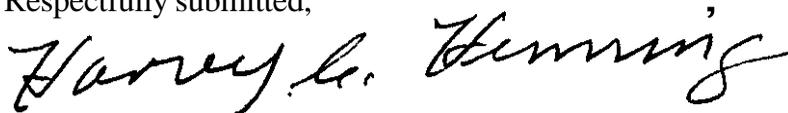
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- 3) The Katrina and Rita experiences showed that amateur radio is and will be vital link in emergency communications but the necessary infrastructure can not be developed without relations of the rules **that** provide more bandwidth. While it is conceivable that the **rules** could relaxed during **an** actual emergency to provide alternative frequencies, it is impossible to properly prepare for **an** eventuality with such narrowly restrictive allocations as currently exist. There are already more stations desiring to implement the technology in a real way than there is available bandwidth to support them.

As an absolutely minimum method of supporting just the emergency Communications aspects embodied in the original ARRL proposal, then the section that proposed deleting 97.221(c) should be retained.

By retaining 99.221(c) (I), protection is offered to other stations that are operating on a given frequency from being “blasted” by a station attempting a data connection. If is, of course, possible that the station under operation control that is requesting the automatic reply (semi-automatic” operation) could conceivably not hear a station on the frequency that a third station was engaging in conversation, but that possibility always exist whether the mode is **data**, digital voice, or any other mode. Common courtesy and other regulations against intentional interference when informed of its prior use. This is no more of a problem with semi-automatic digital modes that with SSB, CW, or any other mode.

Respectfully submitted,



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ARRL member