

WT Docket No. 01-289, FCC 13-2

I am trying to remain calm and reasonable as I write about this stupid proposal to ban the use of 121.5 ELT's. When the 406 units went into use we were told there were no plans to ban 121.5 ELT's.

Based on that assurance, last year I spent hundreds of dollars and a lot of time to replace my ELT to a better unit—a 121.5 unit. Now, some bastards want me to buy a 406 unit.

I fly locally in my 1941 Interstate Cadet. Take off, fly maybe a hundred miles, then fly home, always over farmland and rural areas. These planes have no electrical system and no GPS to provide any location signal to a 406 ELT. I repeat, there is no power in the plane and therefore no GPS to provide a 406 ELT with a location. Thousands of aircraft of other designs also have no electrical system. They fly perfectly well without the help of ignorant Washington bureaucrats.

The aircraft skin is fabric, which is a long time tested covering material. To install a proper antenna for a 406 ELT, the fabric will have to be cut, a suitable mounting plate welded in place, the opening repaired after antenna installation and the repaired area repainted. As it is, the company that makes the paint, no longer makes the color. That may not seem like a big deal, but you are expecting me to spend well over \$1,000 for an ELT that would provide little benefit. For a couple hundred dollars I could buy a personal locator that would do what your stupid 406 units do.