

David S. Johnston
Amateur radio operator, KD8BQN

To whom it may concern-

Please do NOT allow encryption of amateur radio communications! The entire basis of amateur radio is that we provide a useful public service and that we are self-regulating. This will be impossible with encrypted messages. There are already troubles regulating digital mobile (motoTRBO) communications, and I have found in my area that a large amount of the conversations on those repeaters are filled with foul language and crude sexual references, this in large part to the difficulty most have in decoding the communications.

Enabling the encryption of amateur signals would only serve to cause issues with people who feel like amateur radio should be completely open to anyone who wishes to listen. Furthermore, there are several countries that are very suspicious of amateur radio operators who wish to set up "DXpeditions" (trips to foreign countries to make contacts with the outside world). These countries would likely cease to allow communications if they felt that we were encrypting signals and that we could possibly be doing more than just "playing radio."

Furthermore, what is the need for encrypted digital signals? I don't feel like it is worth the possible censorship from other countries just so that people can pass private messages to each other. The entire nature of amateur radio is that nothing is private.

With great concern,
David S. Johnston
KD8BQN
taxpayer