

I am writing in support of RM-11699 for using encryption under certain circumstances in the Amateur Radio Service.

Communication encryption is ubiquitous today and used by everyone to protect sensitive information EXCEPT in Amateur Radio. Why should Amateur Radio be deprived of this tool especially during emergency communications? It is nonsensical.

I have already spoken out publicly several times before and after Hurricane Katrina, even to ARRL, in support of specific uses of encryption. I continue to support any efforts to allow it to be used specifically for Public Safety emergency services.

Most Public Safety radios (even used during emergencies) don't employ encryption simply because of the significantly high cost presented to them by the elite radio manufacturers. Be assured that Public Safety certainly would use encryption if the cost was not prohibitive.

Amateur Radio can, however, field encryption for free on behalf of Public Safety during emergencies IF the FCC so allows it as proposed by this proposal. Our ability to provide ad hoc networks employing encryption during emergency communications would be welcomed by our served agencies surprisingly when they can't!

Those persons opposing this saying it makes the Amateur Radio Service commercial or competes with commercial is ludicrous.

It is foolish to ignore and deprive this important privacy tool for emergency service by Amateur Radio.

Please move to allow encryption in the Amateur Radio Service.

Richard Painter

AB0VO

El Paso County Colorado RACES