

I support changing the restriction on symbol rate to something appropriate to today's technology.

While living in the times of screaming fast internet and cell phones embedded in our hands, we sometimes lose sight of how advanced technology has become in the recent years. Since its inception, the Amateur Radio Service has been on the forefront of that technology, sometimes as the pioneers in that frontier. The rules being called into question by RM-11708 were designed to prevent the HF bands from turning into a free-for-all of superwide signals that would disrupt the existing recommended band agreements "hams" have long respected. However, those rules had no idea the technology that lied in store that is now commonplace in other radio services today. Such technologies could easily be adopted by the amateur service to further the communication abilities of amateurs without needing more extremely precious spectrum in an already tight RF world.

In my opinion, I think the symbol or baud rate of digital transmissions is completely irrelevant in what type of emission is permitted in the HF bands. The existing allowed bandwidth for voice communication is more than sufficient for digital modes that far exceed 300 baud.

The argument has been made that allowing higher speeds of digital modes will caused widespread interference and loss of useable bandwidth for CW and other narrowband digital modes in use by many amateurs worldwide. For many decades, the amateur service has been pretty much "self-policed" in this regard. Gentlemen's agreements were made as to what segments of the band were to be used for certain modes. Hams still to this day adhere to these band plans the majority of the time. Careful planning and structuring of existing bandwidth can accomodate most any standard 2.6kHz digital transmission with negligible impact on existing band use.

I support changing the restriction on symbol rate to something appropriate to today's technology. Lets welcome Amateur Radio to the future.

73
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