

Before The

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20554

In The Matter Of:  
Petition For Rulemaking Of The  
Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance

FCC Docket No. RM-10371

WRITTEN COMMENTS OF  
THE AMHERST ALLIANCE  
AND AMERICANS FOR RADIO DIVERSITY

THE AMHERST ALLIANCE (Amherst) is a Net-based, nationwide citizens advocacy group. It was founded on September 17, 1998 -- at a meeting in Amherst, Massachusetts -- in order to support a viable, meaningful Low Power Radio Service in particular and greater media diversity in general.

AMERICANS FOR RADIO DIVERSITY (ARD) is a regional group of citizens who support Low Power Radio, including both Low Power FM and Low Power AM, as well as community-oriented, independently owned and operated public radio stations. Based in the Twin Cities of Minnesota, with a Membership drawn primarily from towns and cities in the Upper Midwest, ARD nevertheless addresses national issues, in national forums, along with issues arising locally and regionally.

THE AMHERST ALLIANCE and AMERICANS FOR RADIO DIVERSITY hereby file these Written Comments to express our agreement with the viewpoints expressed by Nickolaus E. Leggett, of Reston, Virginia, in his Written Comments of February 19, 2002.

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Amherst and ARD both share Nickolaus Leggett's concerns about the proposed frequency conquest of the Part 15 portion of the radio spectrum. Further, we second his recommendations.

We urge the Commission to consider the tens of thousands of current and aspiring individual broadcasters, including both Part 15 broadcasters and amateur radio operators, who might be directly, and adversely, affected by the Petition For Rulemaking in FCC Docket RM-10371. We also urge the Commission to bear in mind the many, many non-broadcasting citizens, all around the country and even around the world, whose access to vital information and services in an emergency would be seriously impaired by a major reduction in the number of hams.

Finally, we remind the Commission that amateur radio and Part 15 broadcasting, taken together, constitute one of the few remaining mediums of communication in which individuals can relate to each other directly as individuals, and/or as members of a connected community, without having to have their voices filtered through an institution or lost in a chorus. The loss of such forums, following the loss of so many others in recent decades, would be truly a national tragedy.

For all of these reasons, Amherst and ARD join Nickolaus Leggett in urging rejection of the Petition For Rulemaking in FCC Docket RM-10371.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

February 27, 2002

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And  
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I hereby certify that hard copies of these Written Comments have been sent, via the U.S. Postal Service, on February 27, 2002, to the following parties:

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