

As an amateur radio operator I understand the importance of emergency communications and the role amateur radio operators play to our country. Amateur radio operators are an important resource to our country when there is a disruption to conventional communications lines.

Broadband is an important asset in the future design of our country. Already other countries are advancing past the USA in this field as far as delivery speed. Currently the FCC has imposed or allowed state governments to impose binding regulations on the telecommunications industry. These regulations, though intending to create consumer wellness have had exactly the opposite effect. The baby bells have withheld investing in broadband. COVAD is an example where the telecommunications regulations have failed, the largest broadband company in the country with great potential has stumbled. No more needs to be said.

Our country has the opportunity to continue with its great broadband plan, but broadband over powerlines is just a sidetrack. Current cable and copper/fiber will suffice until the wireless technology just announced this year are in allowed build.

Broadband over wireless with a 30-mile range is upon us now, broadband over cable/copper/fiber are here now. Deregulate the telecom industry and let it fly. Broadband over power will cripple amateur communications in the worst possible way LONGRANGE communications. Broadband over power lines will only stifle future investments by the baby bells in broadband. Deregulation of the telecomms and support of wireless technology is the answer.