

Dear Sirs:

I have been the proud holder of an Amateur Radio Station license since April 15, 1979. I am an avid user of the MF, HF, and lower VHF spectrum. I partake in many different modes of communication, but my greatest interest is in pursuing weak signals close to the noise floor. I have also been involved in public service activities utilizing the lower VHF spectrum and, on occasion, regional and national nets utilizing the lower HF spectrum. I have also been involved in the Military Affiliated Radio Service (MARS) helping our US military personnel keep in touch with their loved ones back home.

I am also a senior UNIX systems administrator for one of the nation's largest banks. I have been a computer enthusiast for almost twenty years. Obtaining broadband access to the Internet was a dream come true. However, I would NEVER trade my ability to use the Amateur Radio spectrum for a high-speed Internet connection.

I witnessed a severe degradation of Internet service during the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the hours that followed. Internet traffic was so saturated with people trying to obtain information about what was going on that it brought the Internet to its knees. I was unable to communicate with my family via email or instant messaging while I was at my office over an hour away. My cellphone was also unusable. Our company phone system was unable to access outside lines. The only way to communicate was via my Amateur Radio transceiver in my car.

Now, it appears that BPL will threaten the ability of legal, FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators in the United States from effectively using internationally allocated MF, HF, and lower VHF frequencies. This is happening just so commercial power companies can try to reap more profit from their transmission lines. It is being sold to you as the holy grail of getting broadband to the masses cheaply. I say the cost to the public is too high! One of the primary reasons for the existence of Amateur Radio is to serve the public. If BPL is allowed to exist, you will have effectively killed the Amateur Radio Service. Technologies such as cable and DSL already exist for delivering broadband Internet access to every home in America. Their use grows with each passing day. Neither of these technologies operate in a manner that affects other services whether wired or wireless. Still other technologies are being developed such as WiFi which have no effect upon existing services.

I am horrified that you are willing to treat other FCC licensed users (including the US military) with such disregard. Do you not realize the impact BPL will have on this wide swath of valuable spectrum? A quick visit to the NTIA's website will reveal virtually no part of this spectrum which is unused. Have you not heard the praise that many government agencies, including the President himself, have lavished upon the Amateur Radio Service with regard to our contributions in times of disaster? Ask FEMA or the NOAA how we contribute to their effectiveness year after year! I wonder what our Secretary of Homeland Security would say if this valuable resource is laid to waste.

I implore you, not just as an Amateur Radio operator, but as a concerned citizen of this country, to please not allow this very serious threat to become a reality. Stop BPL now!

Sincerely,

Anthony Scandurra
Amateur Radio Station KG2MY

