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May 18, 2004.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

OET
APL
1669

Dear Ms. Dortch:

You will find enclosed items of correspondence from three of my constituents, Mr. ~~Gene~~
~~Klato~~, Mr. Jim Clark, and ~~Mr. Robert Jay~~, regarding FCC Proceeding 03-104. Please see that
their concerns are filed with other public comments on this issue.

Sincerely,



JON KYL
United States Senator

JK:BCJ

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26 MAY 2004 RCUD

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From: jimcl100@juno.com
Date: 5/15/2004 10:51:00 AM
To: webmail@kyl-iq.senate.gov
Subject: HOMELAND SECURITY

Dear Senator Kyl:

Regarding Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL) which will have a deleterious effect on homeland security/emergency communications, you may not be aware of the problem this is already causing. As I can only operate mobile in my neighborhood (antenna restrictions) near power lines, this is especially problematic for me. In addition, I'm active in RACES (a government-sponsored emergency service), and often have to operate, in conjunction with FEMA, near power lines during forest fires, anticipated WMD drills, violent storms, etc., BPL has already compromised our emergency capabilities in areas where it's being tested.

Power lines were designed to transmit electrical energy. They were not designed to transmit broadband signals, which is fact are radio-frequency (RF) signals. When a broadband signal is put on a power line, much of the RF energy leaks off the line and radiates, causing interference to nearby radio receivers (lines are not shielded). Interference has been documented at test sites throughout the country and overseas where BPL is in operation. Recordings of actual interference at several test sites are available at www.arrl.org/bpl.

The nation's 680,000 radio amateurs and thousands of shortwave listeners are especially concerned about this interference because it affects the short waves -- a unique portion of the radio spectrum that supports long-distance, intercontinental radio communication. Licensed radio amateurs use these frequencies for hurricane reporting, disaster and emergency relief, and many other purposes in accordance with FCC regulations. The Amateur Radio Service is the only 100% failsafe emergency communications capability in the world. No matter what happens, radio amateurs will be able to communicate with one another without having to rely on the expensive and vulnerable infrastructure -- but we cannot maintain our emergency networks if BPL is deployed and interferes with the weak radio signals we are trying to hear.

In addition to amateur operation, the short waves are used for international broadcasting, aeronautical, maritime, and other services including the military. Depending on the frequencies in use, BPL interference also could wipe out radio communication for many of our nation's First Responders -- police, fire, and emergency medical personnel -- who use low-band VHF radios operating in the 30-50 megahertz (MHz) range.

Radio amateurs support expanded broadband services to consumers at lower cost. Indeed, they tend to be early adopters of new technology. However, there are ways to deliver broadband that do not pollute the radio spectrum as BPL does. These include fiber-to-the-home, cable, DSL, and Broadband Wireless Access. None of these technologies causes interference to short wave radio.

BPL is sometimes touted as a solution for rural areas. It is not. A BPL signal only carries a few thousand feet down a power line and then must be repeated. This requires a lot of hardware and will not be economic in areas with low population densities.

The FCC recognizes the interference potential of BPL and is in the midst of a rulemaking proceeding, ET Docket No. 04-37, that proposes new requirements and measurement guidelines for BPL systems. However, the FCC proposals do not go nearly far enough to protect over-the-air radiocommunication services.

In short, BPL has a major disadvantage that is not shared by other broadband technologies and that outweighs whatever benefit it may offer. National broadband telecommunications policy should not include support for BPL, but should focus on other, more appropriate technologies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Clark
NSRO

==== Original Formatted Message Starts Here ====

Sender's IP address =
<APP>SCCMAIL
<PREFIX>Mr.</PREFIX>
<FIRST>Jim</FIRST>
<LAST>Clark</LAST>
<ADDR1>11250 E. Hwy 69 #1125</ADDR1>
<ADDR2></ADDR2>
<CITY>Dewey</CITY>
<STATE>AZ</STATE>
<ZIP>86327</ZIP>
<PHONE>928-775-8432</PHONE>
<EMAIL>jimc100@juno.com</EMAIL>
<ISSUE>OTHER</ISSUE>
<ISSUE>Yes</ISSUE>
<MSG>Dear Senator Kyl:

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Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Clark
NSRO
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