

RICHARD SHELBY
ALABAMA
 CHAIRMAN - COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING,
 AND URBAN AFFAIRS
 COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
 CHAIRMAN - SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
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United States Senate
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103
RECEIVED

JUN - 8 2004

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

May 24, 2004

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04-37

Ms. Diane Atkinson
 Office of Legislative Affairs
 Federal Communications Commission
 Room 8-C453
 445 12th Street, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20554

DET
BPL
1612

Dear Ms. Atkinson:

I am enclosing a letter I received from Mr. Thomas Hix.

Any information you may have regarding this matter would be appreciated in order for me to respond to my constituent's inquiry.

Sincerely,

Richard Shelby

Richard Shelby

RCS/lmj
Enclosure

PLEASE RESPOND TO MY HUNTSVILLE OFFICE

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List ABCDE

05/24/04 13:09 FAX

05/14/2004 08:15 2565930077

TOMS TUBES TOM HIX

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PAGE 01

Thomas K. Hix
Amateur Radio Station W4TH
190 East Hwy.
Boaz, AL 35957
(256)593-0077

May 15, 2004

Dear Senator Shelby;

As a licensed amateur radio operator, I would like to ask for your help on a matter that will have grave consequences not only for amateur radio operators, but for every person, or service that uses radio communications in the USA. This includes our law enforcement agencies, the military, local, state, and federal agencies that communicate with radio, and last but not least the citizen who listens to broadcast radio.

The problem that is fast approaching for all radio users is the use of broad band over power line internet service. This system is known as BPL. BPL has been tried in several countries, and many of the countries (Japan as an example) have wisely chosen not to allow the establishment of this system in their countries.

The reason many countries have not allowed this system to become established is simple. BPL produces terrible interference with other radio services. Many test have been run on the BPL system, and in every single test the BPL system was shown to create so much interference on most radio frequencies that radio communication was impossible.

The interference is created because the BPL is really a transmitter with the radio signal traveling over unshielded power lines. The power lines are naturally located beside roadways, and with the combination of the close proximity to the BPL signal, and the unshielded power lines, this creates such a terrible amount of interference that the mobile radio unit is unable to hear the fixed station with which it is attempting to communicate.

In a fixed station with higher and larger antennas, the interference is even worse since the BPL signal is on the power line in close proximity to the fixed station. Once again the interference can be so bad that any radio communication is impossible.

Since I am a radio amateur, I am more familiar with the interference that is caused on the type of fixed and mobile equipment that radio amateurs use. I have heard recordings of the interference caused by BPL, and I can assure you what I heard would make it completely impossible to hear another station unless they were next door to my location.

The recordings I heard were from an radio amateur's location in North Carolina where the BPL system is currently being tested.

I am convinced that if the BPL system is allowed to go into service in the USA that amateur radio will die.

I know most people are not aware of all the good things amateur radio operators do for their communities. Things like severe storm spotting for the national weather service, and things like helping to provide emergency communications during 911, and during floods, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, and any other man made or natural disasters. Any time amateur radio is called on, they are there, it would be a shame to loose that because of BPL.

Thanks very much for your time. I think you are doing a great job, so keep up the good work. I am behind you 100%.

Sincerely:

Thomas Hix
Thomas Hix
Amateur Radio Station W4TH

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5/24/04 13:09 FAX

RICHARD SHELBY
ALABAMA

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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 5-24-04 TIME: 1:00

TO: Congressional Inquiry

ORGANIZATION: FCC 202-418-2806

FROM: LaFreeda

The Office of Senator Richard Shelby
Huntsville, Alabama (256)772-0460 - telephone
(256)772-8387 - fax

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COMMENTS: RE: Thomas Hix

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