

I am writing this "letter to the editor" because I feel this situation requires immediate attention and we all need to do our part to support the hobby we love regardless of our personal passions and interest.

Recently The ARRL Weekly Letter has had information on the Proposed 60-meter Band Changes, the most recent of which is the lead story in the October 12, 2023 Weekly Letter release and can be viewed by everyone at, <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?&issue=2023-10-12>. Besides important information about the proposal, this article has also includes a link to a webpage with instructions on how you can provide your comments which I strongly encourage everyone to do.

Briefly, the public comment period is only open until October 30, 2023. It appears that we have an opportunity to convince the FCC that they should not move forward with their proposal, FCC Docket No. WT 23-120. There will also be an additional opportunity to reply to the comments they receive until November 28, 2023. The proposed rule change would eliminate all but one of the 5 channel segments currently authorized on a secondary basis and reduce the power limitation from 100 watts ERP to 9.1 watts ERP equivalent.

I admit I have never experimented with this band, but a friend of mine was recently telling me about discovering how much fun he was having there. Imagine his surprise and shock when I told him, "enjoy while you can, the FCC has proposed to take it away from us." From my point of view this could be an example of more to come and why we must continue to support the Leagues efforts in fighting big corporate lobbying efforts that will inevitably keep coming after our spectrum. When I say support, I mean support the ARRL in the major lobbying efforts they have and will continue doing, but when opportunities like this arise, we the amateur community, must make all efforts we can individually so that the FCC and politicians should not ignore us.

Our hobby is made up of a myriad aspects of which each of us may only have a passionate interest in only one or two. That is why it is considered the greatest hobby in the world by many. If we do not respond collectively when anyone of these interests is attacked, our hobby will succumb to outside interests one bite at a time. Rather than selfishly only responding to our own particular passion, we need to collectively band together and fight hard for our hobby.

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