

Representative Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Joe Barton
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2010

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Barton:

As one of more than 680,000 Amateur Radio licensees throughout the United States, I urge your support for passage of S.1755, the “*Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act*,” which is pending in your Committee. This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

S. 1755, a bipartisan bill sponsored by both Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins, passed without opposition in the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on November 4, 2009. On December 14 it passed by unanimous consent on the Senate floor. It was referred to your Committee on the following day.

This bill promotes and encourages the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response.

Please pass S.1755 and send it to the House floor and to President Obama for signature.

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact John Chwat, the Washington, D.C. representative of the American Radio Relay League, Inc., 703-684-7703 or by e-mail to john.chwat@chwatco.com.

Sincerely,