



SAARS

St. Augustine Amateur Radio Society



Date:

Sen. Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

I am a constituent in your state and wish to bring an issue to your attention. I am a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator, one of nearly three-quarters of a million licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the United States.

We provide communications support for, and participate in public service events on behalf of our communities. During and in the aftermath of disasters and emergencies, when other forms of communications are unavailable, we provide communications for first responders and Federal, state and local governmental agencies and non-governmental agencies, including the Red Cross and Salvation Army; for the United States Military through the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS); and to our neighbors when communications systems are overloaded or fail. Radio Amateurs contribute to the future of telecommunications as we participate in the development of innovative technology in this digital age. Amateur Radio is non-commercial, and we provide our services at no charge to anyone.

We cannot do any of these things, however, unless we can erect an outdoor antenna at our residences. Recently, a bi-partisan Bill, S 1685 - "The Amateur Radio Parity Act", was introduced by Senator Wicker (MS) and co-sponsored by Senator Blumenthal (CT). S 1685 directs the FCC to extend their existing PRB-1 regulations of "reasonable accommodation" of Amateur Radio communications to include private land use regulators. This would afford us the ability to negotiate with homeowner's associations in residential developments. Private land use regulations routinely include restrictions that completely preclude Amateur Radio communications operators from installing any type of outdoor antenna system. The "reasonable accommodation" policy has for almost 30 years applied to municipal zoning ordinances. This Bill would extend the policy to operators living under private land use restrictions. The FCC has asked Congress for guidance in this area and this Bill provides it.

As your constituent, I am asking that you support the bill by signing-on as a cosponsor. Please contact Senator Wicker's office to do so. If you have any questions, please contact ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, attention Dan Henderson, at 860.594.0236. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Print Name

Signature:

Address: