

Rep. Lesko Questions the Federal Communications Commission
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Speakers:

Congressperson Debbie Lesko
FCC Chairperson Jessica Rosenworcel
FCC Commissioner Nathan Simington.

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yes thank you Mr chairman and thank you
for being here today radio amateurs
voluntarily and without compensation
regularly provide important Public
Services especially emergency and
disaster related support Communications
when commercial infrastructure has been
destroyed by a hurricane forest fire or
similar disaster

in 2013 Radio amateurs petitioned the
FCC to delete an obsolete rule that
limits the speed with which they can
transmit digital messages
although the commission agreed in 2016
in a 2016 notice that the obsolete rule
should be deleted and although it also
waives the rule when hurricanes or other
disasters threaten the rule still exists
we are the only country in the world
that has a data limit of this type
as you may know I have twice introduced
a bill that directs the commission to
replace the data limit with a bandwidth
limit

this would allow radio amateurs to
engage in modern data Communications and
increase efficient use of their Spectrum
chairwoman

and any other members that want to
answer when can we expect the commission
to act on this matter

or will it be necessary for me to pass
my legislation to get the commission to
act on this what I think is a simple
matter well I appreciate you giving
voice to amateur radio it's important
for hobby excuse but as you mentioned it
can be also used in emergencies and
we've seen lots of demonstrations
of people doing just that and help
really helping out so we had this
petition a while ago and it's about
amateur radio and how it is a shared use
so that we have some restrictions on how
amateur radio hobbyists can use it some
of those involve the symbol rates some
involve a bandwidth restriction and
there's a lot of conflict in our record
about how we should update those but as
you mentioned we lasted a rulemaking on
this and I think it was 2016 or 2017 and
I think we should refresh that record so
that we can move ahead and maybe get to
this issue uh before you have to
introduce some additional legislation
my microphone

do you have any estimated timeline on
this because as you know there are
hundreds in my district alone of amateur
radio operators and I've gone to some of
these emergency training uh events where
they help hospitals and I I think
they're very vital and this seems from
what they described to me to be a simple
and logical change and I was wondering
what your estimated timeline is on this
well the thing is that the record that
we have on it is stale and the old
record there was a lot of divide about
exactly what changes should be made to
uh the bandwidth restrictions here so I
think we're going to have to update that
and then get back to you
um I wish I could give you an estimate

without updating it but I think the right thing to do is to update that record and do any of the other Commissioners have a comment on if we should do this

[Music]

I had a number of friends in the amateur relay uh radio relay League who who sent me copies of your of your introduced legislation with uh you know big smiley faces on them and such it's uh you know I think this is a very been very well received by the community

um obviously the whole concept of a bowed rate is a little bit outdated I don't want to be precipitated on how best to reflect through and how best to update the record I think the chairman is proposing the right approach but this is certainly something we should take seriously well if if you did what is um complementary to my legislation you would have thousands of people that would be very happy and with that I yield back