February 11, 2025

The Honorable
John Fetterman
United States Senate
142 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (Senate Bill 459)

Dear Senator Fetterman:

As a licensed amateur radio and General Mobile Radio Service operator (callsigns KF0JZM and WRNX583 respectively), and a certified search and rescue volunteer for the state of Colorado, I urge you to support the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (S. 459). This crucial legislation will protect and enhance our nation's emergency communication capabilities, which are vital for preserving life and property during disasters.

Recent events have underscored the critical role of amateur radio in emergency response. During Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024, amateur radio operators provided essential communication links when other systems failed, facilitating rescue operations and the delivery of aid to affected areas. As a search and rescue volunteer, I have personally witnessed how amateur radio can be a lifeline in areas where cellular and internet services are unavailable.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act will:

1. Prohibit homeowner associations from banning amateur radio antennas
2. Establish a clear approval process for antenna installation
3. Provide amateur radio operators with legal recourse in disputed cases

These provisions are essential for more than 770,000 FCC-licensed amateur radio operators in the United States, where approximately 75% of new homes sold are governed by homeowner associations according to the Community Associations Institute. However, I respectfully request that you consider expanding the scope of S. 459 to include similar protections for FCC-licensed General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) operators, which are currently excluded. There are over 336,000 GMRS licensees in the United States, and applications for new licenses are growing at a faster rate than amateur radio. GMRS operators, like amateur radio, also play a crucial role in emergency communications. The Act will remove obstacles that hinder our capacity to provide crucial communication support during natural disasters, search and rescue operations, and other critical situations. Many of which could be conducted from base stations at their homes.

I respectfully ask that you co-sponsor and vote in favor of S. 459, and expand its scope to include the same provisions for GMRS. Your support will help strengthen our nation's emergency preparedness and resilience. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Elden D. Wood
Search and Rescue Volunteer
Elden.Wood@mac.com
+1 720-725-0309

February 11, 2025

The Honorable
David McCormick
United States Senate
B40C Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (Senate Bill 459)

Dear Senator McCormick:

As a licensed amateur radio and General Mobile Radio Service operator (callsigns KF0JZM and WRNX583 respectively), and a certified search and rescue volunteer for the state of Colorado, I urge you to support the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (S. 459). This crucial legislation will protect and enhance our nation's emergency communication capabilities, which are vital for preserving life and property during disasters.

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Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Elden D. Wood
Search and Rescue Volunteer
Elden.Wood@mac.com
+1 720-725-0309

February 11, 2025

The Honorable
Glenn Thompson
United States House of Representatives
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (House Bill 1094)

Dear Mr. Thompson:

As a licensed amateur radio and General Mobile Radio Service operator (callsigns KF0JZM and WRNX583 respectively), and a certified search and rescue volunteer for the state of Colorado, I urge you to support the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (H.R. 1094). This crucial legislation will protect and enhance our nation's emergency communication capabilities, which are vital for preserving life and property during disasters.

Recent events have underscored the critical role of amateur radio in emergency response. During Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024, amateur radio operators provided essential communication links when other systems failed, facilitating rescue operations and the delivery of aid to affected areas. As a search and rescue volunteer, I have personally witnessed how amateur radio can be a lifeline in areas where cellular and internet services are unavailable.

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These provisions are essential for more than 770,000 FCC-licensed amateur radio operators in the United States, where approximately 75% of new homes sold are governed by homeowner associations according to the Community Associations Institute. However, I respectfully request that you consider expanding the scope of H.R. 1094 to include similar protections for FCC-licensed General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) operators, which are currently excluded. There are over 336,000 GMRS licensees in the United States, and applications for new licenses are growing at a faster rate than amateur radio. GMRS operators, like amateur radio, also play a crucial role in emergency communications. The Act will remove obstacles that hinder our capacity to provide crucial communication support during natural disasters, search and rescue operations, and other critical situations. Many of which could be conducted from base stations at their homes.

I respectfully ask that you co-sponsor and vote in favor of H.R. 1094, and expand its scope to include the same provisions for GMRS. Your support will help strengthen our nation's emergency preparedness and resilience. If you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Elden D. Wood
Search and Rescue Volunteer
Elden.Wood@mac.com
+1 720-725-0309