

Supporting HR2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act Of 2009

The Laws and Rules Committee (Chairman Bischoff and Legislators Cahill, Decker, R.S. Parete, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Cummings, Maloney and Roberts) offers the following:

WHEREAS, HR2160 instructs the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study, and report its findings to Congress within 180 days, on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. This study should:

- Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts;
- Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives;
- Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations, and make recommendations regarding such impediments; and
- Include an evaluation of section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996)); and recommend whether section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications;

and,

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio operators across the US repeatedly demonstrate their commitment to public service and emergency communications, through their work with Homeland Security activities, state and local Emergency Management offices, and with numerous private agencies, Amateur Radio operators make a difference when other services are inoperative in and around disaster areas such as Hurricane Katrina, and

WHEREAS, passage of HR2160 will help address the challenges facing Amateur Radio as they seek to improve our capabilities to serve, and

WHEREAS, the Laws and Rules Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore be it

Resolution No. 227 July 8, 2009

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature hereby urges the passage of HR2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, United States Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Schumer, United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey, and the National Association of Counties,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 28 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Aiello, Decker, Loughran
and Stoeckeler)
(Legislator Hansut left at 8:25 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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