



Section Manager

February 22, 2017

House Judiciary Committee, Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
Representative Andy Olson and Jennifer Williamson, Vice-Chairs
Members of the Judiciary Committee
Re: HB 2597

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee regarding House Bill 2597. As the Oregon Section Manager of the American Radio Relay League, I represent 3,570 FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operators in Oregon. In total, there are over 18,000 FCC licensed Amateurs in Oregon who would be affected by this legislation.

Many of us use "Ham" radios in our vehicles to support public service events such as the Hood to Coast Relay, Cycle Oregon and the Portland Marathon. In addition, about 600 Amateurs support our local, County and State Emergency Managers with auxiliary emergency communications requiring use of our radios in our vehicles. This volunteer use of mobile radio is critical to many governmental and non-governmental organizations here in Oregon. In the event of a large scale disaster, this mobile communications capability would be an essential component of our service to those organizations we support and the people of Oregon.

House Bill 2597 would remove the exemption that FCC licensed Amateurs now have under the current law. Removal of the exemption would also serve as a significant disincentive for Amateurs to install and maintain radios in their vehicles. For that reason, we are requesting the members of this Committee consider restoring the exemption by adding the following language:

(h) Holds a valid amateur radio operator license or any other license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and is operating an amateur radio.

The State of Washington Legislature recently restored this exemption in their distracted driving legislations, Washington House Bill 1371 and Washington Senate Bill 5289. It is our hope that members of this committee will consider similar actions.

Thank you for considering our request and supporting those who depend on amateur radio operators for communications at times when they are most needed.

Very Respectfully,

John E. Core

American Radio Relay League, Oregon Section Manager
The National Association for Amateur Radio
9831 NW Silver Ridge Loop
Portland, Oregon 97229
(503) 706-4779 Email: KX7YT@arrl.org