Insert Date

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

US Senate

Washington, DC

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

I am a constituent and a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator, one of nearly three-quarters of a million licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the United States. I write today in support of S. 1685, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, in hopes that you will support it when it comes on the Senate floor for a vote.

Amateur Radio operators provide thousands of hours of public service communications support on behalf for our communities annually. During and in the aftermath of disasters and emergencies, when other forms of communications are unavailable, we provide communications for first responders as well as 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.

S. 1685, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, bi-partisan legislation sponsored by Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT, recently passed the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. This measure affords Amateurs the ability to negotiate with homeowners' associations in residential developments while preserving the HOA's voice in the matter. Private land use regulations routinely include restrictions which completely preclude Amateur Radio operators from installing any type of outdoor antenna system. For 30 years the FCC has applied a "reasonable accommodation" policy to municipal zoning ordinances and S. 1685 merely extends that policy to operators living under private land use restrictions. The FCC has asked Congress for guidance in this area: S. 1685 provides that guidance.

As your constituent, I am asking that you support the Amateur Radio Parity Act. If you have any questions, please contact ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, attention Dan Henderson, at 860.594.0236. Thank you.

Sincerely,

<Name> <Call>

<Address>

<Address>