



**The national association
for AMATEUR RADIO**

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September 24, 2003

Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Abernathy:

On behalf of the 155,000 members of the ARRL I must express strong objection to your characterization, in your September 22 speech to the United PowerLine Council Annual Conference, of broadband-over-powerline technology as contributing to "broadband Nirvana." Nightmare is more like it.

The technical showings submitted by the ARRL and others in response to the Commission's Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket No. 03-104 clearly establish that BPL is a significant source of radio spectrum pollution. It cannot be implemented without causing harmful interference to over-the-air radio services.

The BPL industry prefers to deny the evidence. The FCC is required to work to a higher standard.

The radio spectrum is a precious natural resource. The properties of the ionosphere permit intercontinental communication. To squander that resource, simply to add a redundant, unnecessary, and relatively poorly performing "last mile" connection for consumers, is unconscionable.

I hope you will afford the ARRL an opportunity to explain our concerns to you in person at an early date.

Sincerely,

David Sumner
Chief Executive Officer