

Area Hams Please Take Note!

The following text is from a letter received by the NC ARRL PIO, Ray Woodward. This letter is in response to the letter campaign that was just mounted trying to gain support for H.R. 2160. Congratulations on a job well done as it demonstrates that when we as hams come together in consensus on an issue and go on record our voice is heard. H.R. 2160 is important to Ham Radio because it continues the recognition that ham radio operators represent an important and valuable resource within the US relative to the common defense and security of our country. This continues to be helpful in our request to receive preferential treatment regarding operations of personal radio stations. Thanks for a job well done.

February 17, 2010

*Mr. Raymond Woodward
4008 New Sharon Church Road
Hillsborough, NC 27278-8042*

Dear Mr. Woodward:

Thank you for contacting me in support of H.R. 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act. I appreciate hearing from you and am pleased to report that I have signed on as a cosponsor of this legislation.

As you know, amateur radio licensees provide an important community service by enabling communication in emergency and disaster situations. I believe the collaboration between hams and emergency response personnel is an essential component of our preparedness efforts and that we should utilize this partnership to its full potential.

H.R. 2160 is designed to do just that. The bill would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a study of the uses and capabilities of amateur radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to report its findings to Congress. It would specifically require that the Secretary provide recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications, for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of DHS initiatives, and for addressing any impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications.

At this time, H.R. 2160 has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for consideration. That committee will need to grant its approval before the bill can come before the full House for a vote. A companion measure in the Senate, S. 1755, was approved by that chamber in December.

I hope this information is helpful. Again, thank you for contacting me, and please continue to keep in touch on legislation before the Congress.

Congressman David Price (D-NC)

**Glenn Cox KE4BMY
PIO, Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club**