

March 3, 2020

**Testimony: House Bill 1225, Regulation of Amateur Radio Station Antenna Structures**  
**Hearing: Environment and Transportation**  
**Position: Support**

**Martin Pittinger**  
**Amateur Radio Communicator**  
**Maryland/DC Section Manager of the America Radio Relay League [ARRL]**

Mr. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and members of the Committee,

My name is Martin Pittinger, I am a federally licensed amateur radio operator and the Maryland/DC Section Manager of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). I have been deployed to natural disasters and know first-hand that reliable and sustainable communications is critical.

On the evening of May 27, 2018 reports began arriving about severe flooding in Central and Southern Maryland; including Anne Arundel and Howard County, Elliott City, Arbutus, Dundalk, Catonsville, Perry Hall, Patapsco State Park and other locations.

As the Maryland / DC Section Manager, I immediately notified our Amateur Radio Emergency Service [ARES®] members in eight central Maryland counties – more than 40 radio volunteers from five counties responded within 15 minutes. They remained activated until 10 PM the following day – ready to support our county Emergency Managers if needed. *(Note: total five county area of more than 2,500 sq. mi. and a population over 2.7 m)*

Maryland's Amateur Radio Communicators serve in many different ways – those near the Appalachian Trail listen for Hikers in need, many help non-profit annual 5K/10K Run/Walks, the National Night Out Community-Police Awareness-Raising Events, the American Red Cross and we help when natural disasters occur e.g. Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Blizzards, and “Yes” Earthquakes in Maryland.

This ability to communicate instantly using two-way radio and having first-hand local knowledge provide excellent situational awareness that help first-responders. Amateur Radio volunteers provided valuable and timely service from their homes, cars, clubs, schools, colleges, and MEMA.

Amateur Radio is “On-Speed-Dial” with Maryland Emergency Management Agencies [MEMA], Office of Health Service for Mass Care Sheltering. I am routinely invited and attend the MDHS Quarterly Partner Meeting at MEMA, SEOC, Camp Fretterd Reisterstown, Maryland.

Our Maryland Amateur Radio communicators request your support to allow reasonable accommodation to meet the needs and ability for future Whole Community Radio Communication Resiliency. Please consider supporting HB 1225.

Ref:

-ARRL, Maryland ARES® Activated

<http://www.arrl.org/news/ares-activated-in-eight-maryland-counties-for-severe-flooding>

Thanks,  
Martin Pittinger

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