Rep. Lesko Questions the Federal Communications Commission
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Speakers:
Congressperson Debbie Lesko
FCC Chairperson Jessica Rosenworcel
FCC Commissioner Nathan Simington.

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yes thank you Mr chairman and thank you for being here today radio amateurs voluntarily and without compensation regularly provide important Public Services especially emergency and disaster related support Communications when commercial infrastructure has been destroyed by a hurricane forest fire or similar disaster
in 2013 Radio amateurs petitioned the FCC to delete an obsolete rule that limits the speed with which they can transmit digital messages although the commission agreed in 2016 in a 2016 notice that the obsolete rule should be deleted and although it also waives the rule when hurricanes or other disasters threaten the rule still exists we are the only country in the world that has a data limit of this type as you may know I have twice introduced a bill that directs the commission to replace the data limit with a bandwidth limit this would allow radio amateurs to engage in modern data Communications and increase efficient use of their Spectrum chairwoman
and any other members that want to answer when can we expect the commission to act on this matter or will it be necessary for me to pass my legislation to get the commission to act on this what I think is a simple matter well I appreciate you giving voice to amateur radio it's important for hobby excuse but as you mentioned it can be also used in emergencies and we've seen lots of demonstrations of people doing just that and help really helping out so we had this petition a while ago and it's about amateur radio and how it is a shared use so that we have some restrictions on how amateur radio hobbyists can use it some of those involve the symbol rates some involve a bandwidth restriction and there's a lot of conflict in our record about how we should update those but as you mentioned we lasted a rulemaking on this and I think it was 2016 or 2017 and I think we should refresh that record so that we can move ahead and maybe get to this issue uh before you have to introduce some additional legislation
my microphone do you have any estimated timeline on this because as you know there are hundreds in my district alone of amateur radio operators and I've gone to some of these emergency training uh events where they help hospitals and I I think they're very vital and this seems from what they described to me to be a simple and logical change and I was wondering what your estimated timeline is on this well the thing is that the record that we have on it is stale and the old record there was a lot of divide about exactly what changes should be made to uh the bandwidth restrictions here so I think we're going to have to update that and then get back to you um I wish I could give you an estimate
without updating it but I think the right thing to do is to update that record and do any of the other Commissioners have a comment on if we should do this.

[Music]

I had a number of friends in the amateur relay uh radio relay League who who sent me copies of your of your introduced legislation with uh you know big smiley faces on them and such it's uh you know I think this is a very been very well received by the community um obviously the whole concept of a bowed rate is a little bit outdated I don't want to be precipitated on how best to reflect through and how best to update the record I think the chairman is proposing the right approach but this is certainly something we should take seriously well if if you did what is um complementary to my legislation you would have thousands of people that would be very happy and with that I yield back.