



October 27, 2009

The Honorable Joe Lieberman
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Homeland Security
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

I am writing on behalf of the International Association of Emergency Managers USA Council (IAEM-USA) to offer our support for S.1755, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. Our 4,000+ membership represents the emergency managers from the local jurisdictions throughout our country.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the over 700,000 licensed radio amateurs are critical to our members' efforts to provide disaster services to our citizens. Local emergency managers are well aware of the auxiliary and backup communications capabilities provided by licensed radio amateurs at no cost to the jurisdiction. Recent devastating events like Hurricane Katrina only reinforce the radio amateurs' reputation of service. The motto of "When all else fails Amateur radio" is certainly proven time after time with the valuable public service provided by radio amateurs during times of extreme emergency.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to have a member of your staff contact our Past President Larry Gispert KR4X at GispertL@hillsboroughcounty.org or by telephone at (813) 236-3800 or our Policy Advisor Martha Braddock at braddock@iaem.com or by telephone at (703) 644-7082.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ Decker", written in a cursive style.

Russell Decker, President
IAEM-USA