

**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** ARRL BOARD, LEADERSHIP  
**FROM:** THE KEELEN GROUP (TKG)  
**SUBJECT:** TKG ARRL UPDATE  
**DATE:** 7/15/15

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**Quick Assessment**

As of this week, there is active bipartisan legislation in both chambers of Congress to provide regulatory parity to the amateur radio community. HR 1301, introduced on March 4<sup>th</sup> by Reps. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) and Joe Courtney (D-CT) currently has 86 cosponsors, while S. 1685, introduced June 25<sup>th</sup> by Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), has 1 cosponsor.

Our lead champions in both chambers are not only *on* the committees of jurisdiction, but are also the *Chairs* of the subcommittees with oversight of the Federal Communications Commission. Roger Wicker is the Chairman of the Senate Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet Subcommittee, while Greg Walden chairs the House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

**By the Numbers**

2,639 – Letters delivered to congress by TKG and ARRL Board Members in 2015.  
700 – Letters currently en route to TKG from ARRL HQ  
253 – Congressional meetings scheduled by TKG.  
93 – Letters delivered to Representatives John Carney (DE-AL), highest of any office.  
86 – House cosponsors of H.R. 1301.  
79 – House cosponsors whose ARRL visits were arranged by TKG.

**Pathways Forward**

We are currently tasked with generating additional cosponsors on both the House and Senate bills, an effort which TKG and ARRL continues with great effectiveness. Doing so serves several purposes, including educating Congress about the importance of the legislation and of amateur radio; generating support for the bill; and pro-actively beating back potential opposition from HOAs. Importantly, elevated cosponsorship also helps us make the case for including the Amateur Radio Parity Act as part of a larger piece of legislation, such as a comprehensive rewrite of telecommunications policy.

Chairman Wicker, for instance, in our initial meetings made an unsolicited suggestion of including the possibility of including S. 1685 in a telecom bill that will be moving through his subcommittee. Chairman Walden has also expressed desire to craft and pass a telecom bill, and we continue to make the case for inclusion of H.R. 1301.

## **Additional TKG Efforts**

### Grassroots Advocacy Training

TKG attended the Hamfest in Dallas, Texas in June to conduct a first-of-its-kind grassroots training seminar. The course drew significant attention and was attended by over 60 hams, all of whom received a certificate from the Division Director at its completion.

The training course can be fine tuned to include high-level courses, testing to ensure comprehension of material and better ensure only the best ham radio-activists can obtain the certification required to speak on behalf of the Association. This successful effort can be duplicated in other ARRL Divisions around the country.

### Opposing FCC Consolidation of Enforcement Bureaus

TKG aided ARRL efforts to put the Association's concerns front-and-center with Chairman Walden and other Members of Congress after it was learned that the Commission was entertaining the idea of consolidating enforcement bureau offices. The issue was raised, and amateur radio was cited, during a Subcommittee hearing with FCC's Tom Wheeler during the ARRL's DC visit.

TKG also facilitated a meeting for ARRL counsel to followup on the consolidation issue, where we learned of the compromise solution worked out between Walden and Wheeler.

## **Suggestions Going Forward**

### Continued Member Visits

The DC-centric effort to gain cosponsors has been very successful; the vast majority of cosponsors had been visited by ARRL leadership or Division Directors in Washington prior to agree to support the legislation. But there are also examples of outreach at the congressional district level, including Ohio Congressmen Brad Wenstrup and David Joyce, that have succeeded in gaining cosponsors. Because of the cost of travel and lodging, focusing efforts on in-district meetings could be a cost-effective way of continuing the valuable face-to-face interaction between ARRL and elected officials.

The annual district work period, which lasts throughout the month of August and ends after Labor Day, starts in only a couple of weeks. Like last year, it would be beneficial if Directors oversaw outreach efforts to Members of Congress within their Divisions during this extended period. In some cases, the elected officials would be visited by Directors, while in some cases the Directors may choose to designate hand-selected constituents to meet with their Members and Senators. In either scenario, TKG would assist in scheduling the meetings, while coordinating with ARRL to ensure that the appropriate background materials are provided for the ham radio-activists.

### Thank Yous

Politicians like to be thanked for their work, both publicly and privately. Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA), for example, personally expressed his appreciation to TKG for the thank you his office received from a constituent (N6EE) for the Congressman's cosponsorship of HR 1301.

It would be appropriate for local ARRL members to express their appreciation to the 86 Members of Congress that have cosponsored the House bill through traditional mail as well as letters to the editors of local papers.