

## **APPENDIX**

The Keelen Group

**To: ARRL Board**  
**From: Matt Keelen – The Keelen Group**  
**RE: Draft Legislative Advocacy Plan 2019-2020**  
**Date: July 1, 2019**

**The Keelen Group (TKG) has drafted the following plan after meeting with the Legislative Advocacy Committee in DC in June 2019. We are in agreement that ARRL needs to continue to engage the government at all levels. We also agree that previous efforts garnered a great deal of good will for ARRL through your branding campaign. TKG intends to build on this good will while focusing more on a program that plays to your strengths. Any plan will take time to develop, and it is TKG's opinion that the best strategy is to open up as many lines of communication and opportunities as possible. This will give us more opportunities to succeed.**

**That being said, TKG believes that the ARRL's greatest strength has to do with your engagement around emergency situations and your member's critical involvement in disaster communications. TKG wants to focus on efforts around disaster communications in support of federal agencies, Capitol Hill, and state and local governments. As a needed piece in an emergency communications plan, ARRL can and should work with FEMA and DHS to ensure your ability to assist in a disaster. The ARRL needs to educate these officials as to how some HOA policies will hamper or outright destroy your ability to do so and then craft an agenda around common sense solutions.**

**Federal Agency Engagement**

**TKG believes that the ARRL must immediately engage its allies and contacts at FEMA and DHS. TKG proposes to begin this process in September of 2019, in the absence of an extended budget crisis. TKG also believes that ARRL members who have strong contacts with current and past FEMA officials should use those contacts to help set up this series of meetings.**

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**TKG also proposes meeting with DHS staff that handles emergency communications. TKG also believes that the ARRL should pursue grant opportunities at agencies where applicable. TKG has done preliminary research and have included some thoughts on a few potential grant programs: (see below)**

**Citizen Corps Program (CCP):**

**The Citizen Corps mission is to bring community and government leaders together to coordinate the involvement of community members and organizations in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.**

**Agency: DHS/FEMA**

**Rural Development Community Facilities Programs:**

**The Rural Development Community Facilities Programs provides grants and loans to rural public safety agencies by financing needed equipment, improvements, and services. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations, and recognized Indian tribes.**

**Agency: USDA/Rural Development**

**Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP):**

**RCPGP supports the building of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation by providing resources to close known capability gaps in Housing and Logistics and Supply Chain Management, encouraging innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents, and building on existing regional efforts. Agency: DHS/FEMA**

**Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program:**

**The goal of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program is financing improvement, expansion, construction, acquisition, and operation of telecommunications, 911, and emergency communication services in rural areas. Agency: USDA**

### Capitol Hill Plan

**TKG believes that we need to meet with our past sponsors in September and gauge their thoughts on moving forward with a stand alone piece of legislation. We may attempt to draft either new legislation more appropriate to ARRL member's concerns or focus on appropriations bills or tax credits. TKG recommends that the Legislative Advocacy Committee should meet with your key hill allies in September to discuss the new Board's vision for ARRL and re-connect with key players. Below are some quick thoughts on possible appropriations' and tax credit language.**

### Potential Appropriations Language

**"The Committee understands the vital role that Certified Emergency Response Teams (CERT) can play during times of disaster and how imperative it is for CERT members to be able to communicate with each other and with first responders in a timely manner during an emergency, even when the electric grid and cell towers may be inaccessible. The Committee instructs the Department of Homeland Security to partner with the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that all certified CERT volunteers have access to reliable amateur radio communications equipment, which shall include access to working, long range antennas."**

### Potential Tax Credit

**A tax credit, equal to the amount of cost of new equipment purchased, shall be made permissible to any member of an Amateur Radio ARES team for the purchase of amateur radio equipment, antennas, and related equipment needed for Amateur Radio operators to remain operational during federally declared disasters.**

### Proposed Legislative meetings for September 2019

*The Keelen Group*

**Congressman Greg Walden - OR**  
**Congressman Adam Kinzinger - IL**  
**Congressman Joe Courtney - CT**  
**Congressman Bennie Thompson - MS**  
**Congressman Mike Rogers - AL**  
**Senator Roger Wicker - MS**  
**Senator Ted Cruz - TX**  
**Senator Rick Scott - FL**  
**Senator Kamala Harris – CA**  
**Senator Patty Murray – WA**  
**Senator Ron Wyden - OR**

**Third Party Coalition Building**

**TKG suggests that it would be advantageous for ARRL to start building relationships with third party groups in Washington DC involved in your issues. Several groups stand out as potential allies, they include the International Fire Fighters Assoc., National Sheriff's Assoc. and the Fraternal Order of Police. TKG also believes that it makes sense to start reaching out to potential new allies such as the National Association of Home Builders.**