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I strongly support raised bill CB61 providing an exemption allowing licensed ham radio operators to use their two-way radios in their cars.

I would like to see the amendment broadened further.

As written, the amendment specifies a "hand-held radio." There are other radios used by mobile hams that need to be allowed as well.

The most commonly used mobile two-way radios would not be covered as proposed. These radios may be mounted in or on the dashboard, under a seat or in the trunk. Some have a hand-held accessory that might act as a microphone, speaker, switch, and/or buttons. They are often held at the side of the mouth and might look like a cell phone to a trooper. But they are not "hand-held radios".

Some mobile ham radios can be operated using wireless headsets. But these hands-free sets are not covered by either clause C (because they are not "hand-held radios", nor by the hands-free clause D (because they are not "mobile telephones").

I urge deletion of the phrase "hand-held" in the proposed amendment. It should read:

(C) the use of a radio by a person with an amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission, or (D) the use of a hands-free mobile telephone device.

This wording would also allow the use of other types of radios. A ham might legitimately need to use a scanner or a radio from another mobile service to provide interoperability for emergency communications. The flexibility and wide range of equipment we may use is exactly what makes the amateur radio service so robust during an emergency.