§ 1362. Communication lines, stations or systems

Whoever willfully or maliciously injures or destroys any of the works, property, or material of any radio, telegraph, telephone or cable, line, station, or system, or other means of communication, operated or controlled by the United States, or used or intended to be used for military or civil defense functions of the United States, whether constructed or in process of construction, or willfully or maliciously interferes in any way with the working or use of any such line, or system, or willfully or maliciously obstructs, hinders, or delays the transmission of any communication over any such line, or system, or attempts or conspires to do such an act, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

In the case of any works, property, or material, not operated or controlled by the United States, this section shall not apply to any lawful strike activity, or other lawful concerted activities for the purposes of collective bargaining or other mutual aid and protection which do not injure or destroy any line or system used or intended to be used for the military or civil defense functions of the United States.


Historical and Revision Notes


This section was extended to include radio and radio stations. Minor changes were made in phraseology.

Amendments

2001—Pub. L. 107–56, in first par., struck out “or attempts willfully or maliciously to injure or destroy” after “Whoever willfully or maliciously injures or destroys” and inserted “or attempts or conspires to do such an act,” before “shall be fined”.

1994—Pub. L. 103–322, in first par., inserted “or attempts willfully or maliciously to injure or destroy” after “willfully or maliciously injures or destroys” and substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than $10,000”.

1961—Pub. L. 87–306 extended the provisions of the section to means of communication used or intended to be used for military or civil defense functions of the United States, made the provisions inapplicable to lawful strike activities, which do not injure any line or system used for such functions, and increased the punishment by fine from $1,000 to $10,000 and by imprisonment from 3 to 10 years.