I believe that you should adopt a sort of hybrid of the various technologies in this proposal.

I think the best solution for both consumers and providers would be to adopt a gateway style system. In this system the provider would supply a gateway device containing at least 6 “tuners” for linear TV and all the security and communication hardware needed to access both the linear channels and their extended services like VOD. Third party devices would access this gateway device via the home network or via a MoCa network if the user does not already have a suitable home network. The gateway device would provide two interfaces for third party devices to access it’s services. First they would supply a low level API so that third party devices could access linear channels directly. They could use an open standard like DLNA CVP-2 (aka VidiPath) to provide this API and to properly protect content. This would allow third party devices like TiVo to access and record the linear channels directly just like they can now with CableCARD. The second interface would be a HTML5 based “app” that third party devices could access via the network. This “app” would at minimum allow the user to watch a linear channel and access all of the provider’s extended services. However it could also offer additional services like a program guide, caller ID, etc... if the provider decided to incorporate those features. This “app” would allow simpler, low cost, devices or functionality built into the TV to be used in place of leased boxes. It would also allow more complex devices with their own UI, like TiVo, access to extended services by simply launching the “app”. If the provider wanted to cooperate with third party device makers and provide additional launch points for the “app” so that they could more tightly integrate the extended services into their product then they could do that, but it would not be required.

There are a few advantages to both the user and the provider with this system.

For the user....

1) It makes the third party hardware completely technology agnostic. Meaning the user can move to a new provider that uses completely different “tuner” technology without having to replace all their purchased equipment. Even services which may not exist yet that use “tuner” technologies we haven’t even thought of.
2) It gives all third party devices a way to access the extended services of the provider, eliminating a major competitive disadvantage, without needing specific cooperation from the provider.
3) It eliminates the need for additional hardware like tuning resolvers because all the tuning, security and communication hardware is inside the gateway device.
4) It allows the user to lease a single gateway device which can be used to service up to 6 TVs using inexpensive streaming boxes or functionality built into the TVs themselves.

For the provider….

1) It allows them to continue to lease the gateway device to the user so it doesn’t completely eliminate the hardware leasing portion of their business. They could even lease multiple gateways to users who need more than 6 tuners.
2) With the HTML5 “app” they retain control over the user experience for all simple devices and for every device that accesses their extended services.

3) If their tuner technology changes in the future they can simply swap out the gateway device without affecting their users. The gateway could even be moved in to the cloud if they used some sort of bridge to allow third party devices on the local network to talk to their cloud servers.

Not only does this system allow for a good compromise between the proposed technologies but the gateway device might actually meet the requirements under 47 C.F.R. 76.640(b)(4)(iii)).