



BEST BEST & KRIEGER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Indian Wells
(760) 568-2611

Irvine
(949) 263-2600

Los Angeles
(213) 617-8100

Ontario
(909) 989-8584

2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 5300, Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 785-0600 | Fax: (202) 785-1234 | www.bbklaw.com

Riverside
(951) 686-1450

Sacramento
(916) 325-4000

San Diego
(619) 525-1300

Walnut Creek
(925) 977-3300

Gerard Lavery Lederer
(202) 370-5304
gerard.lederer@bbklaw.com

February 5, 2016

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Final Report of the Downloadable Security Technology Advisory
Committee, MB Docket No. 15-64

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 3, 2016, Mitsuko Herrera, of Montgomery County's Department of Technology Services; John Lyons, Cable Administrator for Anne Arundel County, Mike Wassenaar, President of the Alliance for Community Media and the undersigned in his role as counsel to Montgomery and Anne Arundel Counties met with the identified members of the Media Bureau to express our support for the Commission's efforts to create a competitive market place for set top boxes. The Counties shared: the price of set top boxes was a complaint often heard by local franchising authorities; encouraged the Commission to complete its efforts to create a competitive marketplace for set top boxes in a timely manner, and requested that the Commission ensure that Public, Educational, and Governmental ("PEG") channels were not prejudiced in the effort. These same positions are reflected in the November 9, 2015 Reply Comments filed by the named Counties in the above referenced proceeding.

Members of the Media Bureau

Steve Broeckaert
Lyle Elder
Jonathan Levy
Nancy Murphy
Brendan Murray
Antonio Sweet

In support of its call for actions, the Counties cited one additional fact that was not in the Counties' November filing. An HD consumer in Montgomery County has paid approximately \$840 to rent a set top box since 2009 when the County first asked the Commission take action to protect consumers from the monopoly rents an operator might otherwise demand. Never in the intervening time has the consumer been given the opportunity to rent or purchase a box from another vendor, nor has the consumer had the right to lease purchase the box from the cable



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operator. Today, some seven years later, the consumer has paid \$840 for the device and has no greater claim to its use or ownership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Lavery Lederer'.

Gerard Lavery Lederer
of BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP

cc (by email):

Steve Broeckaert
Lyle Elder
Jonathan Levy
Nancy Murphy
Brendan Murray
Antonio Sweet