

March 17, 2016

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Economic change is relentless. There is no stopping an iPhone or Snapchat from putting a slumbering Kodak and its 130,000 employees out to pasture. Americans know this intuitively and know that navigating these changes is the central economic challenge of their lives. Because of that, we continue to call on policymakers to speak honestly and persuasively about these new realities and offer an agenda to harness economic change so it benefits all Americans.

Innovation is an obvious and critical component to that future success. But, as we have written most recently in our report, *Ready for the New Economy*, ill-designed regulations and government bureaucracy can drastically impede innovation and entrepreneurship. That is why we are concerned about your proposal to “unlock the box.” We agree with the 60 Democrats in Congress who have voiced concern with the proposal and, specifically, with over two dozen who wrote to you asking that any FCC proposal “respect existing contracts so that independent and minority programmers can control the presentation of their content and secure funding essential for diverse voices to thrive in the marketplace.” These providers, and others, share their work through carefully negotiated agreements, and we are worried about the fate of these in your proposed regulation. We need to ensure that new regulation supports these innovators—not impedes them.

Thanks to the nascent global digital age, the United States is merely at the beginning of a long period of profound economic change. The Federal Communications Commission is in a position to help America and Americans seize opportunity as a result of that change. We encourage you to use that position to avoid ill-designed regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Horwitz
Vice President, Economic Program