

I want to express my opposition to any requirement of copy protection chips, signals or other schemes in broadcasts or receiving equipment.

I believe that this will limit fair use of broadcast material and is not in the public interest.

Also, I do not think that these type of copy protection schemes adequately take into account the inevitable obsolescence of the technology on which they are based.

For example, what happens when the material passes into the public domain after the expiration of the copyright? What happens when the entity controlling the key to fair use of the material ceases to exist (as we have seen with many technology companies recently)? Does our society lose that part of our cultural history forever?

Also, just talking about pure technological obsolescence, what about my large collection of legitimately recorded, but now obsolete, Betamax tapes? What if they all had a device that prevents me from transferring their content to a newer and more stable media? Should I lose the right to view that which I have archived under fair use forever because of a mandated copy protection device?

I understand the concerns of the rights holders in wanting to protect their product from being exploited commercially. I also understand that there are many existing laws to protect those interests. FCC mandated copy protection will not protect them against professional thieves. Professionals have the technology and the financial incentive to find a way around any protection scheme, as they have done in the past.

The one who will be affected and harmed by this will be the American consumer who is *not* in the business of pirating copyrighted material, but who's fair use rights will be essentially nullified if he cannot record to any present or future media and play that on any player or transfer it to any other type of media for the purpose of archiving.