

Dear FCC,

I oppose the "Broadcast Flag" digital copy protection proposal.

It would sacrifice the public interest to pad the already-swollen pockets of giant Hollywood corporations. Somebody seems to have forgotten that the EM spectrum is supposed to be managed for the benefit of the public.

This proposal would add significant cost and complexity, not just to entertainment devices, but also to hundreds of millions of computers used by consumers and businesses, large and small. The costs and problems associated with these copy protection devices would be borne both by industry -- which already has enough problems competing in the global market -- and by American consumers.

Broadcasters and content providers already make huge profits from their exclusive licenses of the limited broadcast spectrum. They will continue to do so without the benefit of government-mandated copy protection. The current system of legal remedies for copyright infringement is perfectly adequate for protecting their interests.

Frankly, the media giants don't deserve this windfall. All you have to do is turn on your TV to see that they have been poor stewards of the spectrum entrusted to them. Look at all the dreck!

Do the purveyors of this garbage deserve to be enriched at the expense of consumers? No!!

Very, very few of them seem to have any sense of public responsibility at all. Most will run anything at all to make a buck. The result is television which responsible parents are often afraid even to let their children watch.

Most of the broadcast TV industry will run anything at all, no matter how reprehensible. For example, last night I saw part of an infomercial on our local Channel 28 advertising the "Q-ray ionized bracelet," which is a complete scam. (If you doubt that it is a scam, see the November 2002 issue of Mayo Clinic Proceedings.)

Worse yet is an infomercial advertising a coral calcium supplement as a cure for cancer. These soulless bloodsuckers are preying on the desperation of cancer patients, luring them away from real treatments that might actually help them, to sell a scam... and TV broadcast corporations all across America are helping the scam artists perpetrate the fraud, for a share of the ill-gotten gains.

Please reject the "Broadcast Flag" digital copy protection proposal. It will be bad for consumers, and bad for most businesses, just to give a windfall to a tiny privileged minority who do not deserve it.

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