

Paul Gnuyen  
507 Encinitas Way #C  
Placentia, CA 92870

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin:

The broadcast flag will prevent innovation amongst one of the biggest group of software developers in the world. Illegalizing full featured software based HDTV receivers will result in a stymied pace of development in what is clearly the desired path of broadcast development. I urge you to consider the ramifications of your decision and side on the side of free development

Thank you for your time, and I hope you consider what I have said.

Paul Gnuyen

[gnuyen@gnuyen.org](mailto:gnuyen@gnuyen.org)

Sincerely,

Paul Gnuyen

Alan Gimbert  
4 Eastgate Gardens  
Guildford, United Kingdom, GU1 4AZ

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

Thousands of American consumers have already expressed their opposition to the FCC's adoption of a "broadcast flag". I am writing to join them even though I am not American. The UK has been in the forefront of digital Satellite TV and uses encryption algorithms to protect broadcast Pay TV channels. I don't understand the need to restrict the ability to write software that may be used to receive these signals. The TV industry has always been fighting to keep ahead of the code breakers and will always have to regardless of whether it is a software or hardware implementation. Outlawing the production of hardware or software will not stop criminals but may stop otherwise legitimate businesses.

Kind regards

Alan Gimbert

Director

A J Gimbert Ltd

Sincerely,

Alan Gimbert

Wednesday, October 29 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

I do not want the broadcast flag adopted. I don't want the copyright industry telling the consumer electronics' industry what to make, I do not want copyright to trump free speech, innovation, future jobs and health insurance, and the freedom of our society to express itself. There are other ways to protect copyright holders. And, as the copyright industries own researchers, Informa Media, has told them, transmission over the internet of video and TV WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM until 2020.. . Don't buy what the MPAA says. It's incorrect. They don't understand because they are scared of ending up like the RIAA. But their situation is different and it can't be solved with a broadcast flag. Please do the right thing and don't adopt it.

Consumers will also suffer, because they will have to spend hundreds of dollars to upgrade to digital equipment. Why? For a problem that doesn't exist, for a technology that hampers innovation and new jobs and industries, and at the expense of fair use? Crazy. Don't do it. Mary

Sincerely,

Mary Hodder  
2418 fulton street  
Berkeley, CA 94704

JERRY HAMILTON  
5967 SPRING CROSSING  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78247

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin,

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room to room and place to place.

The broadcast flag will also block out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my own piece of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they are not restricted by any flag. If computers are restricted, these devices will not exist.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television

Robert Heym  
1308 Whispering Hills Cir NW  
Hartselle, AL 35640

Commissioner Kevin J Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

Thousands of American consumers have already expressed their opposition to the FCC's adoption of a "broadcast flag". I am writing to join them. As a user of open-source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer. Public policy both now and in the future will be better served by ensuring that open source and free software implementations of digital communications techniques used by television are specifically encouraged so as to ensure as much free and unencumbered access to information as possible remains in the hands of the people.

Adopting the broadcast flag will make the FCC stand for "Federal Computer Control" which is far outside its proper role. It is not the FCC's place to effectively choose the software licenses or computer operating systems that consumers must use in order to watch digital television broadcast on their computers. It is also not the FCC's place to issue regulations which mandate a free people pay license fees to corporations in order to be able to use their own computers as they see fit.

Additionally, adoption of the broadcast flag will harm innovation. Many users of open-source software are computer programmers and "tinkerers" who work to improve the software. Their contributions and constant innovation is what makes open-source software able to compete in the marketplace.

The broadcast flag rule advocated by the MPAA will ban open-source implementations of VSB and QAM modulators and demodulators, preventing open-source programmers from innovating in field of digital communications techniques used by television. This places an unwarranted restriction on technological innovation which could hinder and delay the development of technological improvement and even the development of future technologies.

Most Americans assumed that when television became digital, viewers would be able to do more with television programming, not less. Without innovative new products and flexibility in the ways consumers are able to watch TV, consumers will be less inclined to invest in the equipment to view digital television. Therefore, the broadcast flag is likely to slow adoption of digital television in addition to making it illegal to watch digital television on a computer using open-source software. It is for these reasons I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Robert Heym

Martin Jewel  
546 S Country Club  
PO Box 2481  
Mesa, AZ 85214

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote AGAINST the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would even consider a regulation that clearly would restrict the way I enjoy television. We need fewer regulations and less government intervention in our lives. Government was not established to protect the interests of any industry, but to protect the wants and needs of the people.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place. Further, it opens the door for even more undesirable government intervention in the design and use of hardware, software and services.

The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment.

Let the movie industry deal with the problem as a fact of life in a dynamic, technology-oriented consumer-driven market. If that means that there will be fewer movies on the over-the-air channels, so be it.

As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the congressionally-mandated digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Martin Jewel

Tuesday, October 28 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

The broadcast flag idea assumes that the majority of consumers are criminals. This is wrong and insulting.

Sincerely,

Tom Kinney  
2401 Highway 6 east 4212  
Iowa City, IA 52240

Friday, October 24 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

I am writing to urge you to vote against the broadcast flag. Americans have long enjoyed the benefits of time-shifting and making personal copies of analog TV. The higher quality and greater benefits of digital TV should not be a tradeoff for individuals to lose those rights.

*Hollywood is notorious for claiming that the VCR and every new technology innovation will put them out of business, but they have been wrong every time and are wrong again. Please vote against the broadcast flag.*

Sincerely,

Scott Kister  
124 University Ave  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Tuesday, October 28 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that the proposed broadcast flag regulation will unfairly restrict the ability of consumers to enjoy television while affording little actual protection to content providers.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment, and despite legislative attempts to force the technology down the public's throat, it won't succeed unless it's palatable. If switching means incompatibility with existing displays and equipment, and the potential loss of ability to time-shift programming, it won't go down. More expensive and less functional equipment may be fine with the MPAA, but it's not good for the public.

I am very concerned about the implications of the broadcast flag for fair-use and time-shifting. Those working on different schedules have come to depend on the availability of prime time content in off hours. Editing broadcasts to share important or interesting clips with family and friends for non-commercial purposes also seems to be imperiled by the broadcast flag. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove the control and flexibility afforded by current technology, which has actually increased the value and popularity of television.

What compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment, at least until my current equipment fails and cannot be repaired? A prettier picture is fine, but not enough not enough so to relinquish the ability to time-shift and fair use rights under copyright law. As a citizen and consumer, I urge you to promote the digital transition, electronic equipment manufacturers, and broadcasters, by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

David J. Looney  
260 Hygeia Court  
Encinitas, CA 92024

Joyce Maley  
PO Box 1000  
Elgin, SC 29045

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

As a law abiding, tax paying US citizen, please don't allow my TV viewing to have added restrictions. I don't copy shows to sell to others and have no intent to do so in the future. I respect the copyright laws and will abide by them with no additional needing to be put in place. Please vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am so disappointed that apparently there is an expected future abuse by some people, and I'm going to be punished for it

At times I record shows in my living room as that is the only satellite connection I can afford at this time. I can then take the tape to my bedroom in the evening or another room that I might be working in. I can't believe that anyone could feel that this broadcast flag is in my interest nor in the interest of the law abiding public.

If this is going to be implemented in digital TV, I say 'NO' to digital TV. What good is it to have high quality TV if I have to leave for a rehearsal and just want to record the last 15 minutes of a show that I would otherwise miss, and can no longer do so? As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Joyce Maley

Thursday, October 30 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

The proposed broadcast flag will not work.

The consumer is judge, jury, and executioner. Ask Circuit City and their former Divx product (Not the video codec)

I hope the MPAA is ready for backlash from the consumer electronics industry when no one buys the new items. There will be a major buying frenzy right before it's enforced, followed by complete silence. No one likes when freedom is taken away from them. Especially for a problem that doesn't exist.

Anyone who does not know about what is going on, will- the global Internet will alert them. There is always one person in each family that is "good with computers" and is sought out for information. The truth will be told of greedy corporate executives, followed by some choice curses. Thus, a sale will be stopped. The same way people are boycotting the RIAA (you think the latest low numbers are piracy?)

There will be hacks and cracks almost instantly if it gets passed.

Technology can not be stopped- greedy organizations need to evolve with the times, not launch pathetic attempts at controlling the consumer.

Sincerely,

Ed Martucci  
280 River Rd. #47B  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Julie Mayberry  
2829 Sterling Park Drive  
Raleigh, NC 2603

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin:

Hi there,

I am a professor of Communication at NC State University and Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. Since I began teaching, I have found that video clips from movies and television are VERY effective teaching tools. When I teach a concept, like conflict resolution, I can talk about it for days and days, but this is not as effective as talking about it for half an hour, and then showing a video clip from a television show that many students watch. Since conflict is a standard device used in both drama and comedy, I can find compelling examples of class concepts for my students to study. When they have heard about a concept and then see it acted out right in front of them, they not only learn and understand it better, but also the information is retained and they are more likely to use it. Many students are reluctant to act out role plays in front of their classmates, so watching a video is a very useful tool in portraying these concepts. I believe that one of the most important things about the communication theories/concepts I teach is that they are noticeable all around us in our everyday lives, and nothing illustrates this better than clips from TV shows that students already watch on a day to day basis. I have even managed to find a Simpson's episode that shows a small group's reaction to power-forcing techniques that I use on my final exam

If you saw my annual salary, you would laugh. I cannot afford (nor can my department with all our budget cuts) to buy expensive video tapes depicting these concepts, and often the video tapes available for purchase are outdated, stilted, and artificial-sounding. Please don't limit my ability to use what is good and free and sitting right there.

Thank you,

Julie Mayberry

Sincerely,

Julie Mayberry

Monday, October 27 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I request that the Federal Communications Commission vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag."

I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag, and how this would restrict the way I enjoy television. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Shane Metler  
275 John Knox Rd  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Michael Charles Miller  
525 Cole Street  
Apartment 7  
San Francisco, CA 94117

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RECEIVED**

NOV - 5 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

Thousands of American consumers have already expressed their opposition to the FCC's adoption of a "broadcast flag". I am writing to join them. As a user of open-source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer

Please, remember your charter from the United States Congress and stop spending your time and our money protecting billionaire boys club members while you ignore the abuses of the P-U-B-L-I-C airwaves!

Enough is enough! No more 'protection' of the corporate citizens at the expense of the actual human beings who pay for your salary, your enforcement acts and soon, give up any access at all to the very public spectrum you are charged to protect.

Remember the public. We, alone, own the airwaves, own the cable rights-of-way, own the satellite links, and we, alone, are the true clients of the FCC.

Sincerely,

Michael Charles Miller

Richard J Mooney  
11619 River Hills Dr  
Burnsville Minnesota 55337

Commissioner Kevin J Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

The current way that I can manipulate media within my home network is why I invested in three desktop computers and one laptop. With restrictions in the future I will no longer need or want this network and the need for a computer for anything other than word processing or occasional movie listings. This is why I strongly oppose any change that would prohibit my current rights.

I am also upset that digital standards for television may require a subscription for what I can currently view for free (Minus me not charging to watch commercials Ha).

I lost my job and had to unsubscribe to cable to cut costs, what will the future hold for those of us who cannot afford to participate from time to time?

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place.

The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment.

As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag. Rick Mooney

Sincerely,

Richard J Mooney

Tuesday, October 28 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

I am writing to you today as someone not only deeply concerned with the content of broadcast television and home video, but also as a consumer of related electronic devices such as digital video cameras. And today I ask the Federal Communications Commission to reject any adoption of a "broadcast flag."

It is bad enough realizing how expensive the transition to digital TV will be - not just for broadcasters and narrowcasters (in cable and DSS/satellite markets) but also for the viewing public. And no-one wants to get stuck buying an entirely new home network, monitors, and yet more needless gear (and thus adding to our collective credit card debt - which has to be a pain in and of itself), as the MPA(A) and their supporters would prefer us to do.

Moreover, the "broadcast flag" would make it impossible for anyone to be more than a "passive consumer" - which is not what we were born to be in the first place. We were meant for something better than to be guinea pigs for the latest Hollywood product(s).

Moreover, how is the average person supposed to create new and (possibly) important video works if everything has to be sent through a Hollywood-governed gatekeeper? Pretty pictures aren't good enough anymore (nor were they ever good enough to begin with) to justify trashing (literately) perfectly-working electronic gear. And I refuse to add more to our landfills.

I ask the FCC to oppose the broadcast flag system and end the greed that is milking us dry for Hollywood's benefit.

Sincerely,

Philip David Morgan  
287 Cambon Avenue  
Saint James, NY 11780

Monday, October 27 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

I am opposed to the adoption of a "broadcast flag." These weak "copy protection schemes" are pointless. This law will only be used to prosecute the competition and people who like to recording software. Please stay away from the broadcast flag.

Thank You. -Jason Macpherson

Sincerely,

Jason Macpherson  
1733 N 450 W  
Provo, UT 84604

Craig Myers  
1062 Rustling Oaks Drive  
Millersville, MD 21108

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

Sirs,

I feel it is ineffective and inappropriate for the Federal Communications Commission to regulate software activities. I understand the FCC is considering rules or regulations that will make it illegal to write or use software that processes digital tv content that has a "broadcast flag" set. I am not in favor of this effort.

Existing laws are designed to protect the property rights of creative works. Banning software efforts because they "might" be used to break the law is not effective and unamerican. As a user of open-source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer.

I am currently building my own "Home Theater PC" that will provide wife friendly operation of the myriad devices within a modern home entertainment system. Integral to such a system is the ability to bring in broadcast HDTV signals to a computer, format them and display them on a monitor (or TV). I will be using open source software and writing my own. I have no intention of violating copyrights. As a successful middle class adult, I represent the target market for HDTV products and services.

The motion picture industry will have to make a value judgement, is the profit to be realized from digital TV transmission worth the risk of improper copying. All the copying methods the MPAA fears for digital TV are possible now, so the broadcast flag law is too little, too late. With or without the broadcast flag, knowledgeable people with the desire to cheat will be able to do so.

I think the RIAA's recent efforts to sue or prosecute copyright violators is the correct approach. Use the laws and the judicial system to protect your rights. Trying to legislate limitations on technology is ineffective and unamerican.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Craig Myers

Craig Myers  
1062 Rustling Oaks Drive  
Millersville, MD 21108

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

Sirs,

I feel it is ineffective and inappropriate for the Federal Communications Commission to regulate software activities. I understand the FCC is considering rules or regulations that will make it illegal to write or use software that processes digital tv content that has a "broadcast flag" set. I am not in favor of this effort

Existing laws are designed to protect the property rights of creative works. Banning software efforts because they "might" be used to break the law is not effective and unamerican. As a user of open-source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer.

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The motion picture industry will have to make a value judgement, is the profit to be realized from digital TV transmission worth the risk of improper copying. All the copying methods the MPAA fears for digital TV are possible now, so the broadcast flag law is too little, too late. With or without the broadcast flag, knowledgeable people with the desire to cheat will be able to do so

I think the RIAA's recent efforts to sue or prosecute copyright violators is the correct approach. Use the laws and the judicial system to protect your rights. Trying to legislate limitations on technology is ineffective and unamerican.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Craig Myers

Chris Poe  
900 Debden Dr  
Island Lake, IL 60042

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin:

Thousands of American consumers have already expressed their opposition to the FCC's adoption of a "broadcast flag". I am writing to join them. As a user of open-source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer.

I am a proud member of the open source software movement. I help test, debug, document, and create software in collaboration with many others like me around the world. I have \*never\* knowingly participated in any unethical practices such as illegal music piracy, code stealing, patent or copyright infringement. I'm one of the good guys — one of the vast majority of good guys.

I respectfully submit that in the global economy one has of two choices. Participate or die. Artificial trade/technology barriers to said participation inevitably have unintended consequences to the overall detriment of our economy. The role of the FCC is not to protect the revenue stream of a minority of media companies, but to ensure that the general public has reasonable access to technologies and frequency spectrum. In a word. Freedom.

Adopting the broadcast flag will make the FCC stand for "Federal Computer Control" which is outside its proper role. It is not the FCC's place to effectively choose the software licenses or computer operating systems that consumers must use in order to watch digital television broadcast on their computers.

Additionally, adoption of the broadcast flag will harm innovation. Many users of open-source software are computer programmers and "tinkerers" who work to improve the software. Their contributions and constant innovation is what makes open-source software able to compete in the marketplace. The internet was built — literally — on open source software. The dirty secret of the IT industry is that the internet could not have been built by one organization. Period.

The broadcast flag rule advocated by the MPAA will ban open-source implementations of VSB and QAM modulators and demodulators, preventing open-source programmers from innovating in field of digital communications techniques used by television.

Most Americans assumed that when television became digital, viewers would be able to do more with television programming, not less. Without innovative new products and flexibility in the ways consumers are able to watch TV, consumers will be less inclined to invest in the equipment to view digital television. Therefore, the broadcast flag is likely to slow adoption of digital television in addition to making it illegal to watch digital television on a computer using open-source software. It is for these reasons I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

I voted for George Bush primarily because the Republican platform philosophically wants free enterprise to work by getting government out of the way. This is one of those issues that tests if my vote was the correct one.

Respectfully,

Chris Poe

Island Lake, IL

Sincerely,

Chris Poe

Terrell Prude', Jr  
10332 Main St. #145  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

Hello folks,

I'm writing about this "broadcast flag" that I understand will be decided upon pretty soon. I think it's a bad idea. Implementing this broadcast flag will not stop folks from violating copyrights, it will just stop honest folks who want to use Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) from watching it. As a professional systems engineer, and as someone who uses FOSS operating systems, this scares me.

I don't see the need for any sort of "broadcast flag." We don't have them on analog TV, and that hasn't stopped people from, say, going to the movies or renting videos (as Blockbuster Video's profits will gladly confirm). I don't see any "underground market" for episodes of "Friends" or "Frasier" or even "Star Trek", the latter of which in particular has a near-cult following; people typically go to Blockbuster or some online video store and buy the episodes.

The FCC has been warned numerous times by Congress, as I recall, about rubber-stamping things that some corporations put in front of you. Where is the benefit of preventing FOSS developers from writing software that allows people to watch digital TV on their computers, vs. letting only the MPAA and Microsoft do so? FOSS is the one thing keeping any sliver of "honesty", if you can call it that, in the likes of Microsoft and the MPAA. Open competition—true competition, not limited by something like this broadcast flag—is how innovation happens. You really want to stop that?

Why would you want to make it illegal for me to watch digital TV on my computer without having to install Windows?

Put a stop to this broadcast flag business, or anything else like it. It's not good for the country. The MPAA and Microsoft are not the entirety of the United States of America

Sincerely,

Terrell Prude', Jr.

Sincerely,

Terrell Prude', Jr.

Jeanie Smith  
P. O. Box 580  
Lincolnton, GA 30817

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

From an education standpoint, the Broadcast Flag would greatly hinder classroom instruction. The Fair Use law has been such a help for educators to incorporate up-to-date information in the classroom. What better way to discuss overweight children or the cruelty of children than to show the program where a thin girl dressed in a fat suit and went to a new school? what better way to discuss the events in the middle east than to be able to record the news or show a segment to your class.

The problems with Hollywood and piracy are understandable because people should be paid for their work and not have to worry about others taking advantage of that, but not allowing schools to record programs and segments of programs will further hinder education in our country.

From a personal standpoint, my family is very busy. There are so many nights when we are not home when our favorite shows come on. If it weren't for VCR's, we would never get to see these shows. We are not showing them in an open forum and charging admission. We are watching them at a later date. If we could not do this and countless others could not as well, many of these shows would go off the air because the interest in them would be gone.

Sincerely,

Jeanie Smith

Thursday, October 30 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

I am writing to you because of the threat of putting broadcast flags into television programs. I think it is a bad deal for consumers because if you record something that has a broadcast flag in it you won't be able to watch it on any other player but the one you recorded it on, which I think is unreasonable. It hurts the consumers the people that buy the products. I realize that the companies want to find a way to prevent piracy but this is the wrong way to go about it in my opinion. Hurting everybody just because of what some people are doing is not fair. Pay per view and video on demand might be effected in a negative way because people might not buy from them if the content has broadcast flags in the programs. I bought something from pay per view a few days ago and I cannot play it on my dvd player in the living room or the one on my computer. If video on demand starts doing this I will stop buying from them as well. Digital should not mean less rights to the consumer. It should make it easier for people to watch and record programs not more inconvenient. I do believe copy protection does have a reason to prevent piracy but there is such a thing as going to far. Instead of totally preventing people from viewing stuff they record off the television companies should make their own software and sell it to consumers

Sincerely,

*Supersaiyaman*  
3521 suffolk drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Thursday, October 30 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

To Whom It May Concern,

The FCC is about to undertake an action that will have significant repercussions for many years to come. That said, as an informed and technologically savvy U.S. consumer, I urge you to not approve the use of a "broadcast flag" or other similar means by the various media outlets who have sought this measure.

Instead I ask that you take the matter under advisement, pay for an independent study, request the GAO to look at the potential economic impacts, and provide time for additional public comment.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Eldon R. Smith III

Sincerely,

Eldon Smith  
7671 Stana Court  
Lorton, VA 22079

Sunday, October 26 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

This is a terrible idea. When the average person tries to record something and gets an error they are going to be PISSED!! The people who you are trying to stop from pirating will easily find get-arounds and other methods. This will only hurt the TV viewers who PAID FOR THEIR TV, RECORDER, AND CONTENT!!

Sincerely,

Chris Tarozon  
301 N. Reuter Dr.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Lisa A. Taft  
255 Mathews Ave.  
Atlanta, GA 30307

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

As a future school media specialist and parent, I am opposed to the broadcast flag rule on the grounds that it will impede innovation and access to broadcast media. Examination and critique of broadcast media is an important part of information literacy in the 21st century. Historically, the fair use clause of the copyright law has enabled educators to teach media literacy. The broadcast flag could seriously damage that educational mandate. The broadcast flag rule is clearly not in the best interest of an educated and independent citizenry. Please do not pass the broadcast flag rule.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Taft

Tuesday, October 28 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

As a manufacturer of consumer electronics, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way consumers legitimately enjoy television.

I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content -- I can modify, create, and participate. I can record TV to watch later; clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy. The "Universal vs. Sony" case ruling will in effect be overturned by this regulation, which may ultimately be ruled out by the courts again.

The main issue of this regulation is that it will do little to actually prevent the piracy of content, as it will be easy for those who want to distribute content even with this flag to do so. All this regulation does is to prevent the legitimate use of PVRs and VCRs to time shift or record for posterity. In effect it will turn consumers who have fair use rights into criminals to continue using their content as they are currently allowed to.

As a manufacturer and a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Steven Vasquez Co-Founder ReQuestMultimediawww.request.com

Sincerely,

Steven Vasquez  
435 2nd Avenue  
Troy, NY 12182

Justin Weber  
1193 Driver Place  
Wescosville, PA 18106

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C 20554

Dear Commissioner Kevin J. Martin:

Dear FCC,

The Universal Studios vs. BetaMax lawsuit dictated that just because it is possible to infringe copyrights with a device did not call for an outright ban of that technology. VCR's revolutionized the way americans watch TV and enhance our life. With busy life styles it becomes impossible to imagine laws and regulations on time-shifting. My faith in lawmaking bodies is very faint. Prove me wrong. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Justin Weber

Tuesday, October 28 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

It's bad enough that Copyright law has been chipped away and eroded to the point that it no longer resembles what the framers intended. Adding the Broadcast Flag would amount to elimination of copyright law altogether by allowing content providers rather than legislature to specify what constitutes fair use of content. And given the teeth of the DMCA, the arbitrary choices of content providers would have the rule of law.

The broadcast flag must not pass.

Sincerely,

Todd Robert Wyatt  
4525 Steepleton Way  
Charlotte, NC 28215

October 28, 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Kevin Martin,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

I recently purchased a Panasonic 106h DVR. This Digital Video Recorder has a hard drive that can store up to 106 hours of video.

"Great!", I thought, "copy the kid's DVD's to the harddrive so that the peanut butter covered fingers can't destroy the Disney original!"

I figured I could load up our DVD's like a play list and let the kids use the remote to control what they want to watch. Maybe make a backup copy of a few of my favorites to play on my laptop while travelling.

Well, guess what, the DVD's have the broadcast flag already on them. You can't copy them using this machine.

My head was spinning as I read the chapter of "can and can't" on the broadcast flag. Finally, when I couldn't play a DVD I made from a broadcast TV show on my computer, I took the thing back.

I WILL NOT BUY ANOTHER DVR/HDTV if it has the broadcast flag!

Sincerely,

Ed Wehner  
1201 Lydia Ln  
Saint Paul, MO 63366  
USA

Monday, October 27 2003

Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Martin,

I am opposed to the new requirement you and the content producers are proposing, the "broadcast flag". I am not opposed to copyright ownership, nor do I support piracy, but I firmly believe that it is not in the best interests of America for the FCC to attempt to enforce private legal privileges. I oppose the broadcast flag and, even more so, the DMCA, an affront to our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Sincerely,

Donald S. Wilde  
2218 Southern Blvd SE #12  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124