

Wednesday, October 22 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Copps,

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.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. That transition will be far more palatable to me as a consumer if switching doesn't mean discarding my existing home network, buying new high-resolution displays, and finding room for yet another device in my living room. Please do not allow the MPAA and its allies to hinder the transition by making us buy special-purpose DTV devices that are more expensive and less valuable.

In addition, 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.

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,

Neil Blackburn
103 South Marion Lot #17
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

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Sincerely,

Patricia Maw
7 La Sordina
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

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Robert Hunzeker
89 8th Street
Shalimar, FL 32579

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James Song
10778 NW McDaniel Rd
Portland, OR 97229

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Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bell
244 Neptune North, NIU
Dekalb, IL 60115

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Ben Music
5728 Pleasant St.
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

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Sincerely,

Joe Deary
755 Sunset View Drive
Centerville, UT 84014

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Sincerely,

Jerome D. McBride
14 Cuthbert Road
Riverton, NJ 08077

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Sincerely,

Alden Levy
75 W. 71st Street, Apt. 1A
New York, NY 10023

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Sincerely,

Matthew Thomas
16148 SE 16th St.
Bellevue, WA 98008

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

Dear Michael Copps,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated copy protection schemes including the digital television "broadcast flag." As a home electronics consumer and a technologist, I feel strongly that such a policy would be dangerous for product innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

Firstly, we must protect innovation. It is necessary that the consumer determine what technology is innovative enough to survive in the marketplace. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell consumers what new products they can buy. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, leading to outrage and disinterest. It may also create a lucrative black-market for technologists able to disable these limitations.

Secondly, we must protect consumer rights. In 1976, in the landmark Walt Disney vs. Sony case, the Supreme Court upheld the rights of citizens to record video for time-shifting purposes. Since then, the US courts have upheld similar "fair use" rights for individual recordings, backups, and format-shifting. This caused an explosion in the home-video industry that we take for granted today. Now, the video industry is trying to use the FCC to overturn Supreme Court rulings by dictating technological limitations. This type of political and social regulation through technological means must be stopped.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I will not make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. As a consumer, I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. As a technologist, I will not be able to enhance or improve these products without violating FCC rules. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

William Garrison
203 Wickersham way
Cockeysville, MD 21030
USA

October 22, 2003

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

Dear Michael Copps,

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.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Walter Peterson
1534 Jackson St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
USA

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Sincerely,

Jared Buletza
38 Russell Rd.
Somerville, MA 02144

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Sincerely,

Duke Bishop
36346 Haley St
Newark, CA 94560

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Sincerely,

Larry Baumann
2361 Shirecreek Circle
Grand Prairie, TX 75052

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Alan Maretsky
23803 Hilo Court
Valencia, CA 91355

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Chris Ickler
19 Brewster Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776

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Sincerely,

Ester Fuchs
226 S. Broadway St.
Lake Orion, MI 48362

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Eric Grab
5387 Channing Street
San Diego, CA 92117

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Michael Cunningham
12 Lindner Lane
Howell, NJ 07731
USA

Wednesday, October 22 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Copps,

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.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. That transition will be far more palatable to me as a consumer if switching doesn't mean discarding my existing home network, buying new high-resolution displays, and finding room for yet another device in my living room. Please do not allow the MPAA and its allies to hinder the transition by making us buy special-purpose DTV devices that are more expensive and less valuable.

In addition, 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.

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,

Steve Roberts
1015 Muscatine Ave
Iowa City, IA 52240

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Richard J. Wira
67 Riverview Terrace
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

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Jackson Hockman
2441 Colt Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

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Crystal Tischler
317 1/2 East Fourth St.
Salida, CO 81201

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Charles Yanney
16413 Cedar Grove Rd.
Sparks Glencoe, MD 21152