

Friday, October 17 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Chairman Powell,

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,

Jason Stare
2381 Duncan Dr. Apt 1
Fairborn, OH 45324

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Sincerely,

Mike Esler
2012 W St. Paul #407
Chicago, IL 60647

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Sincerely,

Stavros Karatsoridis
4006 Monticello Blvd, Apt 304
Youngstown, OH 44505

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Marvin Tunnell
100 SE 50th Rd
Lamar, MO 64759

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Gregory Toto
2651 Octavia
San Francisco, CA 94123

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Brian Cifor
65 Oakland St. Apt. 3
Aurora, CO 80012

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Mike McGee
322 Monte Vista Ave. #105
Oakland, CA 94611

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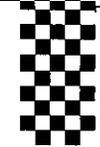
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Eric B. Smith
2608 W. Kiernan
Spokane, WA 99205



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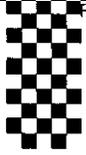
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Steve Wootton
2213 Timberline Dr
Carrollton, TX 75007



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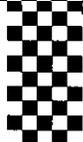
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Amanda Hart
127 Russell St.
Peabody, MA 01960



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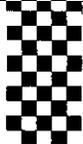
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Richard Nolan
7396 Oak Post Road
Liverpool, NY 13088



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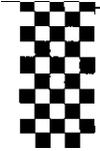
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Sincerely,

Terry Frazier
1041 Honey Creek Road, #281
Conyers, GA 30013



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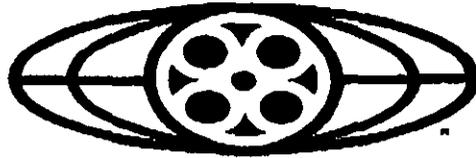
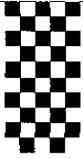
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Craig Baldwin
374 Deerfield Rd
Pomfret, CT 06258



MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Fax Cover Sheet

Date: 10/17/03

To: Paul Gallant

From: Fritz Attaway

Fax Number: 418-2801

Pages: 3 TOTAL

Re:

1600 Eye Street, NW - Washington, DC - 20006 - (202) 293-1966

Washington Post writer Jonathan Krim made an earnest attempt last week to inform your readers about a measure before the Federal Communications Commission called the Broadcast Flag, which would protect digital broadcast programs from being redistributed over the Internet. However, in outlining the technologically complex entrails of this issue, Mr. Krim's article did not tell your readers why the Broadcast Flag is critically important to them.

The heart of this issue is whether high value TV shows like *Friends* and NFL Football will remain on free, off-air television, or be forced to migrate to cable and satellite delivery systems that provide greater protection against misuse of those shows. The cost of producing a TV show like *Friends* is far greater than the fee that can be paid for initial broadcast. Producers depend upon aftermarkets -- domestic and foreign syndication and, increasingly, home videos -- to recover their costs. These aftermarkets are destroyed when a program is "pirated" for mass redistribution on the Internet.

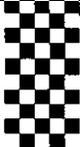
Cable and satellite technology can protect high value programs from unauthorized Internet redistribution. In order for free, off-air TV to provide the same protection, the FCC must implement the Broadcast Flag. If it does not, simple economics will force high value programs to migrate from free TV to subscription systems.

The Broadcast Flag will benefit consumers by keeping high value content on free TV. The price consumers will pay for this benefit is negligible. Most consumers will not even know the Broadcast Flag exists.

Although a great deal of inflammatory rhetoric has been flung about, these facts are unassailable:

- The Flag will in no way prevent the recording of TV shows.
- The Flag will in no way impair the ability of early adopters to view or record TV shows on their non Flag compliant TV sets and recording devices.
- According to one of the largest manufacturers of consumer electronics equipment, Thomson, there "is very little cost involved" in implementing the Flag.

The FCC had been directed by Congress to promote the transition from analog to digital television, and to protect the public interest in free, local broadcasting. These goals are served by placing digital broadcasters on a level playing field with cable and satellite systems which can prevent Internet redistribution of high value content. The FCC should implement the Broadcast Flag.



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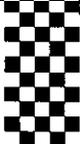
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Mark Ray
5883 Blaine Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22303



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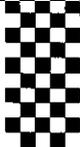
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Dustin Christensen
101 Shinnecock Dr
Englishtown, NJ 07726



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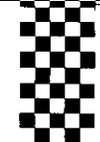
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If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me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

Karl Jackson
102 N Wheeling Rd., Prospect Hts
Prospect Heights, IL 60070



Friday, October 17 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Chairman Powell,

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.

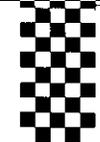
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Jay Friedman
5900 whitworth Drive #101
Los Angeles, CA 90019



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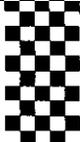
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Sincerely,

Joshua Campbell
1 Freedom Drive
North Reading, MA 01864



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J. Vardous
2303 Oberlin Ave.
Lorain, OH 44052



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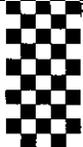
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~~~~~  
Crofton, MD 21114



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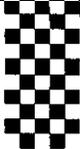
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E. Robert Gonzalez
209 Guinevere St.
Victoria, TX 77904



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Stuart DuBreuil
2255 Pleasant Hill Ln
Maidens, VA 23102