

October 11, 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,

Ken Wakabayashi  
1402 Astor Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
USA

October 28, 2003

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

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Sincerely,

Barton Meeks  
209 Snowden Place  
Raleigh, NC 27615  
USA

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Sincerely,

Joshua Colvin  
9885 Orange Park Trail  
Boca Raton, FL 33428  
USA

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Sincerely,

Michael Renzulli  
930 South Dobson Road #39  
Mesa, AZ 85202  
USA

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Sincerely,

Geoffrey Peck  
3075 Marston Way  
San Jose, CA 95148  
USA

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Sincerely,

Michael Moles  
757 SE 17th St #281  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316  
USA

October 22, 2003

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

Dear Michael Copps,

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Sincerely,

Lance Johnson  
2561 Exeter Court  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
USA

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Sincerely,

Geoffrey Lee  
2651 N Kennedy St  
Orange, CA 92865  
USA

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Sincerely,

Andrew Starr  
185 Massachusetts Ave  
#401  
Boston, MA 02115  
USA

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Sincerely,

Bill Rickords  
8010 Westlakes  
Wichita, KS 67205  
USA

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Sincerely,

Andrew Lansford  
634 E. Norman Ave  
Arcadia, CA 91006  
USA

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Sincerely,

Matthew Crites  
231 Saint Christopher Ln  
Whitehall, OH 43213  
USA

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Sincerely,

Rob Knauerhase  
4926 SW Corbett Ave #108  
Portland, OR 97239  
USA

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Sincerely,

Dan Fitzpatrick  
678 East 44th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46205  
USA

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Sincerely,

Lance Starck  
221 Bello Court  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
USA

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Sincerely,

Ryan Manly  
261 Evergreen Ave  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
USA

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Sincerely,

Jason Crittenden  
1805 SE 6th ST  
East Wenatchee, WA 98802  
USA

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Sincerely,

Sabrina Patka  
1095 Prouty Way  
San Jose, CA 95129  
USA

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Sincerely,

Andrew Shearer  
198 Wayland Avenue  
Providence, RI 02906  
USA

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Jody Bruchon  
116 Midway Drive  
Hillsborough, NC 27278  
USA

November 2, 2003

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

Dear Michael Copps,

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Sincerely,

Jason Larke  
1435 Wedgewood Dr  
Salline, MI 48176  
USA

Robert Heym  
1308 Whispering Hills Cir NW  
Hartselle, AL 35640

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

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

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

liz rose  
3227 Rittenhouse St., NW  
Washington, DC 20015

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

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

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.

Sincerely,

liz rose

dave vanderkloot  
1530 S. State St.  
#1014  
Chicago, IL 60605

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445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

dave vanderkloot

Harley D. Eades III  
1509 Fenley Ave.  
Pekin, IL 61554

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Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Michael J. Copps.

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Free as in Freedom

--Harley D. Eades III

Sincerely,

Harley D. Eades III