

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,

Michael S. Sturgeon
93 Fairground Rd
Xenia, OH 45385

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Sincerely,

Clay Ferriola
113 Aspen St
Yadkinville, NC 27055

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Sincerely,

Keiley Blair
4303 Aggie Rd
Jonesboro, AR 72401

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145 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

John-David R. Rocha
130 Glen Park Dr
Missouri City, TX 77489

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Adam A. Koch
11275 Bauman Ave
Omaha, NE 68164

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Steven Newton
660 N. Manning Ave 9B
Eton, NC 27244

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William Earl
581 Douglas Ave
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

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Daniel P. Olson
9140 Barnick St. #102
Fairfax, VA 22031

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Scott Sidel
11532 Daffodil Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20902

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Sincerely,

Thomas A. Wooters
85 East India Row
Boston, MA 02110

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Federal Communications Commission
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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,

Michael Potter
10682 Lovell Rd
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379
USA

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Ryan Christopher Parks
18102 15th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98155

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Michael A. Brucato
4968 Western Hills Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio
Cincinnati, OH 45238

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Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Murakami
918 Faultline Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska
Fairbanks, AK 99707

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Chris Partidge
11722 S 28th St
Bellevue, NE 68123

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Washington D C 20554

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What I find most distressing about the possibility of the broadcast flag is the dissembling from FCC staff. When people point out that the flag will make obsolete the 50 million DVD players now in use, staffers say that always happens when new technology hits the market. The difference of course, is that people choose to adopt or not to adopt new technologies according to their wants. This is an additional cost imposed on consumers by the government for the advantage of the few. It isn't new technology that consumers would choose.

Kenneth Ferree, an FCC employee, is quoted as saying, "It will simply prevent consumers from illegal piracy." This is at best dissembling. What it will do, simply, is to force consumers to spend their money on equipment that is no improvement on what they already have. This is a solution for a problem that doesn't yet exist, and maybe never will. It assumes that American citizens are eager to make illegal copies of broadcast media. Rather than the presumption of innocence, we have a presumption of guilt.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would certainly 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.

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John Cadagin
1121 Cherry Rd
Springfield, IL 62704
USA

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MeHgan Thompson
3231 NW Mast Ave
Lincoln City, OR 97367

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Pankaj Anand
506 Washington Rd
Parlin, NJ 08859

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Terry Bowling
430 Deer Cliff Run
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

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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,

Susan Palmeri
2725 Kingdom Rd
Watertown, NY 13165

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,

Christopher Creal
11020 S Eastwood Dr
Palos Hills, IL 60465
USA