

Thursday, October 23 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,

Joseph Pucciarelli  
23 Piccadilly Way  
Westborough, MA 01581

Thursday, October 23 2003

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445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

James Song  
10778 NW McDaniel Rd  
Portland, OR 97229

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The convergence of computer and video technology can be a powerful driver in the economy. Do not stifle this growth by allowing Hollywood to control and dominate the market. Remember their cry over the introduction of VHS? Yet that drove their business to new levels. Digital video has the same potential, and should be controlled by the user.

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Sincerely,

Marc Williams  
2010 Henderson Heights Trail  
Alpharetta, GA 30004

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Sincerely,

Sean Cleveland  
P.O. Box 569  
Brookdale, CA 95007

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Sincerely,

Yaron Y. Goland  
6001 51st Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

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Sincerely,

Anh Vu  
507 Torwood Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

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Sincerely,

Nick Stengel  
W8328 old hwy 70  
Winter, WI 54896

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Sincerely,

Troy Lanphier  
2630 Salado Drive, Pearland, Texas  
Pearland, TX 77584

Thursday, October 23 2003

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

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Dear Chairman Powell,

This writing is with great concern:

As a consumer and dealer of broadcast television, electronics, computer products, and home theater equipment, 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.

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Sincerely, Jamie Wedel Woodstock, GA

Sincerely,

James Wedel  
3070 Lexington Ave  
Woodstock, GA 30189

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Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Peter Holmes  
6276 Thorncrest Dr Bloomfield  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

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Sincerely,

Don Washington  
205 arbor lane  
Franklin, NC 28734

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Sincerely,

Albert F. Jones  
7204 Waterford Trace  
Huntsville, AL 35802

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445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Powell,

I would like to inform you that I agree with the following form letter. In addition, I feel that the push to convert television to digital when the cost of digital ready equipment is prohibitive is foolhardy.

"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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Sincerely,

George King  
7651 Garners Ferry Rd #406  
Columbia, SC 29209

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445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Powell,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to consider the adoption of a "broadcast flag" EXTREMELY CAREFULLY.

I am not very clear as to whether the FCC serves as an advocate for the communications industries, for the people, or some odd mix of the two. But I am not sure that the broadcast flag is a good idea for the movie studios and other entertainment entities to be pushing. Sometimes, when a firm tie is made to a particular technology, the result is disastrous for those who initially thought this measure would "solve their problem."

Within the overall economic and cultural context of this decade, I doubt that the effect of a restrictive coding such as this is going to be very predictable. Since the digital TV transition is not really moving ahead very fast, as I see it, perhaps this action is premature, and a decision on it ought (in spite of industry pressures) be delayed for a couple of years.

Peter Cross, Belmont, CA

Sincerely,

Peter Cross  
2908 San Juan Blvd.  
Belmont, CA 94002

October 23, 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Powell,

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,

David Talkington  
3737 NE 130th St  
Seattle, WA 98125  
USA

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

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Sincerely,

Charles Lindeberg  
14110 Minnehaha Pl  
Wayzata, MN 55391  
USA

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I am very particularly concerned about the fact that to date I have spent over \$30,000 on video equipment alone to permit me to receive and enjoy HDTV broadcasts (this includes set-top boxes, front projector, scaler, etc.). None of this equipment will recognize a broadcast flag. Adoption of a broadcast flag requirement will result in this current equipment not being able to pass and process the full-resolution digital signal, thus prohibiting me from being able to enjoy the best picture possible, much less being able to record the best picture possible for later enjoyment for personal use only. Please do not pass legislation that will penalize those of us who have been early adapters of digital technology and HDTV.

Scott Shearer

Sincerely,

Scott Shearer  
25 Bonnywick Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

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Sincerely,

Martin Hart  
2418 Kenworthy Dr  
Missouri City, TX 77459

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Sincerely,

Paul B. Anders  
15057 S. 6th Place  
Phoenix, AZ 85048

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445 12th Street, NW  
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Bradley Greger  
6453 Varna Ave  
Van Nuys, CA 91401  
USA

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445 12th Street, NW  
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VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Chairman Powell,

Both as a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, and, as an analyst serving the interactive TV and telecommunications industries, I urge the FCC to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag."

There's no dispute that content-owners and copyright holders should have the right to assert their ownership rights, and to be recognized and compensated for the use of their content.

Clearly, piracy is illegal, and I would condone the use of technology-based tools that can assist with the identification of content so that acts of piracy can be identified at the time of the theft, or forensically.

However, I strongly disagree with the steady push to erode Fair Use. If a consumer acquires content through legitimate channels and uses it within the acknowledged scope of fair use, no technology (whether it be broadcast flag, DRM, conditional access, or any other technology yet to be invented) should interfere with the right to Fair Use.

Also, the FCC should not be in the business of mandating the use of a specific technology. As technologies (and work-arounds) evolve, different approaches will come to the fore, which will render past technology solutions (and mandates) ineffective.

Please consider these factors during your decision making process as the FCC rules on the Broadcast Flag issue. Thank you.

Sincerely, Steven Hawley

Principal & Consulting Analyst Advanced Media Strategies PO Box 1991 Issaquah, WA 98027 USA

<http://www.tvstrategies.com> <mailto:steve@tvstrategies.com>

Sincerely,

Steven C. Hawley  
PO Box 1991  
Issaquah, WA 98027

Thursday, October 23 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.

FINAL NOTE: The wording above may not be mine specifically, but I agree with its content wholeheartedly. The broadcasters are doing nothing more than trying to implement an RIAA type environment to force everyone to do things THEIR way. Not very realistic in the real world.

I strongly urge you to side with the public rather than the desires of this special interest group.

Doug Gorrie

Sincerely,

Doug Gorrie  
3325 San Simeon Way  
Plano, TX 75023

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445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Paul Pappas  
12 Walden West Rd.  
Bernville, PA 19506

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445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Mark Hahn  
4138 Avenida Sevilla  
Cypress, CA 90630