

As a consumer interested in protecting competition, innovation, and legitimate use of cable TV content, I urge you to refuse requests for waivers of 47 CFR 76.1204(a)(1) by NCTA, Charter, Verizon, and all other cable providers. The FCC's "integration ban," which in effect requires cable companies to integrate CableCARDs into their own set-top boxes, remains good policy today.

Now ten years after the Telecommunications Act of 1996, cable companies have dragged their feet long enough on competitive alternatives to proprietary set-top boxes, thus hampering innovation and harming consumers. The "integration ban" will also help market competition prevent further restrictions on cable subscribers' ability to make legitimate use of recorded content.

By adopting content protection limits ("encoding rules") in docket no. 97-80, the Commission recognized the importance of allowing consumers to make certain uses of TV content, regardless of a particular cable provider's or copyright holder's wishes. With competition spurred on by the integration ban, consumers would have the freedom to choose the least restrictive cable-compatible device available. The CableCARD standard already prescribes restrictions that harm consumers by limiting non-infringing uses, and such restrictions will get even worse if cable providers' set-top boxes are unchecked by competition.

Also, as a consumer, I embrace the the right to record normal television shows. I love the idea of high definition television. If I had the money, I would buy it. The only problem is aside from insignificant funds, I do not like the idea of DRMing television shows. The biggest thing I have against it is, if it is viewable for free on let's say NBC. Why does it really matter of how it is distributed? If it was pay per view, than yes, they have a legit reason to incorporate DRM. But if it is shows where nobody has to pay to view a show, why does it matter?

One other thing I do love was the ability to save video from television shows. With this type of technology, it simplifies on how wwe watch tv. All I trying to say is, the more restrictions the cable or movie companies implement to hinder us as consumers from enjoying television, the more likely we will turn away from televison. For all around, the consumers, the companies, and the economy, the DRM idea turns out to be bad.

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