

Dear Commissioner of the FCC,

I am writing in support of statements by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), Media Access Project, the Alliance for Community Media and other consumers who have added their comments. I believe their points are well founded and deserve extra consideration.

Currently the public has a variety of clear QAM tuners available to them and can avoid extra "rental" charges on the channels in basic subscription list. Due to your past judgment to allow encryption of Tier 2 channels development of Cable Card based public option devices has started. But public options to cable company encrypted STB's can be counted on one hand and do not work perfectly across all cable providers systems. This adds support to the CEA statement of the many failures of the CableCARD adaption and service providers that the industry has not done enough to make this mandated option a reality. The forced market by your action of encrypting Tier 2 channels needs more time to develop real cross platform solutions that offer real choice for consumers before full encryption requirements are mandated.

You offer a buffer of "free" device support for certain times and certain customers. This immediate action adds an electrical cost to consumers and in public school systems. The free device will come to an end putting an additional undue burden on the public in terms of Set Top Box (STB) costs both as individuals and as public entities. Many consumers are just adjusting to the change from analog to digital and they had more than 5 years notice and we are years past that adoption and they have not completely traversed that point. I do not believe that anyone has shown that there is a net gain to society not having a serviceman to hook up a cable line Vs the cost of electricity to run STB's. But one can easily see that those costs will shift more toward the consumer and reduce costs to service provider.

I respect the rights of service providers to protect their product but just what is the net gain of protecting these limited local channels to the bottom line when all the other services they offer are already protected with encryption. For me the added services are the reason I subscribe. I suffered through the Tier 2 rules and have adapted to that by recently purchasing an M Card device so that I could send back the STB which I find offensive. Your ruling on this will leave me unaffected for now and I have plenty of time to justify the expense of purchasing my own. But I speak for all others who do not have the resources that I have. Please do not adopt this plan at this time.

Respectfully,

Craig Arnold

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