

These comments for the FCC are in opposition of MB Docket No. 11-169, In the Matter of Basic Service Tier Encryption.

As a basic cable subscriber, the encryption of basic tier programming would adversely affect me. I have four digital television sets in my home along with a clear QAM network tuner device. None of these devices use any form of set top box (STB) to receive programming. None of my digital television sets have the ability to accept a CableCARD. If the basic tier were encrypted, I would need a STB for each television and the network tuner would become useless. I do have the option of purchasing a different model network tuner device with the ability to use a CableCARD but this is at a significant cost to me. Assuming that the rental costs associated with the required STB would be \$5 per month per television and an additional \$5 per month for the CableCARD for my network tuner I would incur approximately \$25 per month of rental fees on my monthly cable television bill. It is important to note here that as of my 12/07/11 cable bill, my total cost for basic programming, not including any fees, is \$19.20. As you can see, my rental fees associated with encrypting basic tier programming potentially exceeds the cost of basic tier service itself. I see no way that encryption benefits the consumer, even with a promotional period of free STB equipment. Eventually, I will have to pay for this, so called, improvement.

Many of the comments that have been filed by carriers in this matter cite the percentages of households that already have CableCARD devices or carrier provided equipment that would be compatible with basic tier encryption to be very high. I have no reason to dispute these percentages but will offer my opinion as to why they are so high. The transition from analog broadcast to digital broadcast forced nearly all consumers who received their television over the air to either purchase a digital to analog converter STB or purchase a digital television capable of receiving ATSC broadcasts. During the transition, many cable providers advertised for new customers that no boxes were required with cable and that existing customers would be unaffected. This was, at the time, a selling point for cable television. As a result, many cable customers kept their analog television sets as no additional equipment was required. In the following years, many cable providers have transitioned from analog delivery to nearly all digital. My cable provider is one that is primarily digital. Prior to the cable transition, my local cable provider advertised for all of its customers to pick up the soon to be required STB. Being a basic cable subscriber, I received no notice from my provider as I have been unaffected by this transition to digital. The customers that needed these new STBs were those that continued to use analog television sets and were subscribers to what is generally considered expanded basic programming. As a result, a large number of customers who previously did not need a STB were now forced to use one. This is why I believe that the percentage of customers with these STBs is so high. This was not a matter of the consumer wanting to use a STB, it was because they were forced to use one.

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