

11-169 Basic Tier Encryption

The recent FCC decision to allow cable companies to encrypt all channels is a major mistake and insult to the consumer. This does not help consumers in any way. This will force every cable subscriber to need a tuning device provided by the cable companies. This raises the already skyrocketing price of cable even further. Cable companies are growing larger every day and forcing their subscribers into more expensive packages daily.

In the area I live, we have no choice of cable provider. Depending on what part of town you live in, you either have Comcast or Charter. They do not compete with one another and no other competition has been allowed to successfully enter the area due to lobbying of the cable companies. It has been this way for 20 years or longer. We also have a lot of hills which hurts OTA broadcast signals. This new ruling will allow the cable companies to force all of their subscribers into more expensive digital packages with the need to rent tuning devices for each TV in their house. At a cost of \$8-\$15 dollars per box, this cost becomes unbearable. My bill is already raising monthly, with the cable company adding in larger fees for various reasons.

I have TVs with QAM capable tuners and a PC with a QAM tuner. With this new ruling, these will become useless and I will be forced to rent 3 tuning devices. That adds another \$24-\$30 to my bill. This is unreasonable. Not to mention the extra cost of power to run these tuning devices and batteries needed for the extra remotes. The cable companies lobbied that this will help bring prices down and help with innovation. This is totally untrue. If they were dedicated to innovation, they would have used their lobbying funds for such. Cable prices never reduce in price. They only continue to raise with no change in service. I am very disappointed in this decision by the FCC. This is clearly a decision favoring the cable companies and not the consumer. This will lead to higher prices, less competition, and less innovation. Nice work FCC.