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Without the economic incentive provided by competitive products, cable companies have no motivation to provide anything beyond the most basic and ill-designed services.

CableCARDs are one of these competitive factors. Without a successor product available and with the revocation of the CableCARD technical standards, cable companies are free to continue to force users into substandard products that are more capably supported elsewhere.

Some cable STBs currently (Motorola/Cisco) use CableCARDs in a proprietary configuration yet representatives tell customers they don't use CableCARDs at all. User interfaces and feature sets for these STBs are stuck in the 1990s. If not for technical standards and competitive products, customers would never have been able to enjoy the on-demand, streaming content and thus the additional revenue sources the cable companies and content producers are benefitting from that all evolved from the competitive products.

Sufficient protections are in the CableCARD technical specifications to allay rational fears of piracy by the content producers.

With continued development of the CableCARD, cable companies and content producers can enjoy the additional revenue streams from each new piece of technology and consumers will not be locked into antiquated hardware, software and interfaces and together the marketplace can grow to benefit all parties.

I urge the FCC to continue to mandate CableCARD support, direct the cable companies to price them equivalent to an STB and support further development of a standard technology.