

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

For years, we have been promised a vision in which technology unleashes TV and delivers consumers more choice, better content and new services that revolutionize the video experience. We've heard complaints from consumers about why they need a set-top box to watch their favorite programming. And we've pressed TV providers and networks to produce and carry the kind of diverse programming that represents all of America and not just the privileged few.

The good news is that it appears that we finally are on the cusp of this new unencumbered television frontier. How do we know? Just listen to leaders like Apple CEO Tim Cook who recently declared "The Future of TV is Apps." Netflix Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos echoed those sentiments when he said that in 10 years TV, "will be a series of apps that's closer to what you see on smart TV." And when you look at the marketplace, companies like Amazon, Apple, Google and Roku all sell video devices that provide TV programming via apps. The evidence is overwhelming.

That is why we are concerned by reports that the FCC is considering new regulation called All Vid that would jeopardize this progress, raise consumer costs, require consumers to rent another set-top box, threaten diverse programming and erode consumer protections. This would be a disaster for consumers and minority voices.

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Instead of allowing innovators and competitors to continue building on the TV app frontier, All Vid would require consumers to add a government-designed set-top box, resulting in higher bills and higher energy usage. And even worse, while requiring consumers to rent more equipment it would eliminate consumer protections concerning privacy, emergency alerts, children's programming and more. Consumers would pay more and be protected less.

All Vid will cause irreparable harm to independent and minority programmers by allowing third parties to strip programming from visible channel placements and relegate it to the bottom of the pile. These merchants would also be allowed to sell intrusive advertising without sharing any revenue with programmers, cutting off the needed revenue to continue producing quality content.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure that consumer welfare and diversity of voices are not the casualties of an unnecessary tech mandate like All Vid.

Sincerely,



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams
Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore

Edward Mark

LA-2

Shelby Lee

Barbara Lee

John Lewis

Ronnie Wakeland

Cheryl

John Longers
