

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
4TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
ARMED SERVICES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1004

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER,
REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL,
AND ANTITRUST LAW
CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE
SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES
INTELLIGENCE, EMERGING THREATS
AND CAPABILITIES
STRATEGIC FORCES

September 27, 2016

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

Re: Expanding Consumers' Video Navigation Choices, MB Docket No. 16-42

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, I write to applaud the Commission's efforts to increase competition and expand consumer choice with set-top box alternatives.

There are nevertheless outstanding concerns with the draft rule; specifically, the proposed use of compulsory copyright licensing. Licensing agreements are one of the many copyright tools that play a critical role in protecting copyright owners, guarding against pirated content, promoting creativity, and limiting unnecessary content manipulation. Strong copyright protections spur creativity, innovation, and confidence in new products and services. Concerns have been raised, however, that the FCC is not the appropriate body to create a one-size fits all copyright licensing regime for set-top box applications.

In light of this concern, I urge the Commission to release the full details of the proposal, so that Members of Congress have an opportunity to duly consider the merits of these concerns.

If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Director Arya Hariharan at 202.225.1605 or arya.hariharan@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



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

cc: The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Ajit Pai, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission