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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6115**

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July 9, 2008

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AND CHIEF COUNSEL

Mr. John E. Potter  
United States Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear General Potter:

On February 17, 2009, full-power television broadcast stations will transition to digital television (DTV), which will allow for more programming and better sound and picture quality. The DTV transition will also provide new opportunities for wireless technologies on analog spectrum being vacated by broadcasters. Most importantly, some of this vacated analog spectrum is expected to be used to create a nationwide, interoperable broadband network for first responders.

Beginning February 18, 2009, analog television sets must be connected to a digital-to-analog converter box or cable or satellite service to continue to receive the signals of full-power broadcast stations. To assist those consumers with analog televisions that are over-the-air reliant and wish to use a converter box rather than purchasing a digital television or connecting to cable or satellite service, Congress established a TV Converter Box Coupon Program. The program, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), allows households to receive by U.S. mail up to two \$40 coupons, each of which may be used towards the purchase of a digital-to-analog converter box that will display digital signals on an analog television set.

Each TV converter box coupon expires 90 days after the date it is mailed by NTIA, so it is essential that consumers receive these coupons as quickly as possible. To keep administrative costs down, NTIA is mailing coupons Standard Class rather than First Class. Because of the limited amount of time consumers have to use their coupons, as well as the overall importance of a successful DTV transition for the Government, public safety, consumers, and industry, we strongly urge you to give mailed coupons priority status so households receive them promptly.

Mr. John E. Potter  
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Television is the predominant medium through which Americans receive critical public safety information and is one of the chief conduits for news and political discourse, as well as entertainment. Timely delivery of TV converter box coupons will therefore become increasingly important the closer we get to the transition date for those households that need a converter box and have not yet requested coupons.

While approximately 17 million coupons have already been mailed, millions more may still be requested. We therefore urge you to act expeditiously to address this matter.

Sincerely,



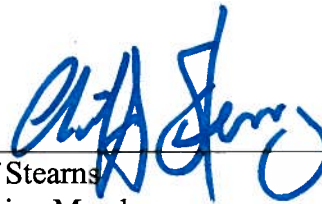
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Chairman



Joe Barton  
Ranking Member



Edward J. Markey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Telecommunications  
and the Internet



Cliff Stearns  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Telecommunications  
and the Internet