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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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February 12, 2008

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The Honorable Meredith A. Baker
Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Baker:

At midnight on February 17, 2009, our Nation will undergo a critical technological conversion when we transition to digital television (DTV). The benefits of the DTV transition include more television programming with better picture and sound quality and more spectrum for innovative and wide-reaching wireless services. One of the most important benefits will be using some of that spectrum to create a nationwide broadband public safety network for use by first responders.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will play a crucial role in ensuring the success of the DTV transition through its administration of the TV converter box coupon program. This program, established by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, directs NTIA to make available to each household upon request up to two \$40 coupons, each of which may be used toward the purchase of a digital-to-analog converter box. Analog television sets that receive television signals over the air must be connected to a converter box to continue to receive and display television signals after the DTV transition.

Section 3005 of the Deficit Reduction Act provides that each household may apply to receive up to two coupons. It also provides that coupons shall expire three months after issuance. We write to inform you that it is consistent with our reading of the statute for households whose coupons have expired to apply to have them re-issued. We strongly urge you to allow coupons to be re-issued under such circumstances provided that there are sufficient funds remaining in the TV converter box coupon program to support such reissuance.

The Honorable Meredith A. Baker

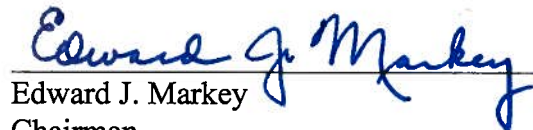
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The DTV transition is a Government mandate that will affect all consumers, and it is incumbent on the Government to use its resources to help educate and prepare all Americans for this potentially disruptive change in our broadcasting system. There are less than 13 months remaining before the end of the DTV transition. If the transition is not successful, millions of Americans that rely solely on over-the-air broadcasts may be left in the dark. We therefore urge you to act expeditiously.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Edward J. Markey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Telecommunications
and the Internet



Henry A. Waxman
Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce



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Member
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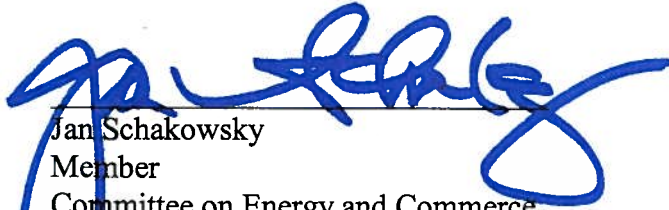
Mike Doyle
Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Jane Harman
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Committee on Energy and Commerce



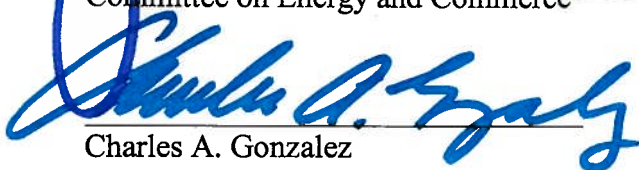
Tom Allen
Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce



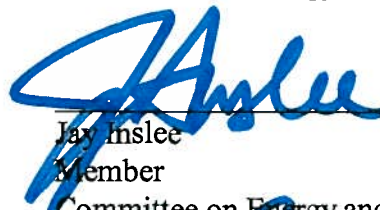
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