

MEMORANDUM

To: Milton Brown

From: Sara W. Morris, Office of Congressional Affairs

Subject: Docket Number: 080324461-8462-01 (The Household Eligibility and Application Process of the Coupon Program for Individuals Residing in Nursing Homes and Households that Utilize Post Office Boxes; Waiver)

*Oral Ex Parte Communication of Staff Representing U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi*

Date: August 5, 2008

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On August 5, 2008, Sara Morris of NTIA's Office of Congressional Affairs and Ryan Yates of NTIA's Office of Policy Analysis and Development spoke telephonically with Melissa Shannon, Policy Advisor to Speaker Pelosi; and Nicole Rivera, Field Representative with Speaker Pelosi's District Office.

Participants discussed Speaker Pelosi's concerns, which were initially conveyed to NTIA in a July 9, 2008 to Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information Meredith Baker, regarding the availability of TV Converter Box Coupons to residents of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units. Ms. Shannon and Ms. Rivera said this was of special concern to the Speaker given that many SRO residents are below the poverty level and elderly, making the cost of purchasing a TV converter box a substantial burden. They also indicated that none of the over 500 SRO buildings in the San Francisco area are wired for cable, requiring SRO residents to rely on over-the-air broadcasting to receive emergency weather and other emergency information, including earthquakes.

Ms. Morris acknowledged receipt of the July 9 letter and expressed appreciation for the Speaker's bringing the matter to NTIA's attention. Ms. Morris further noted that the Speaker's concerns have been made a part of the record of NTIA's rulemaking and invited Speaker Pelosi's staff to submit any further information they may have about SROs. Ms. Morris stated that the agency is working diligently to complete its rulemaking.