



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

October 3, 2007

Mr. Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Kevin:

I am writing to express concern about a proposal to place unlicensed, personal and portable devices on television channels.

The use of these devices poses a risk of harmful interference that would undermine over-the-air television in the United States. An analysis of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) own data shows digital television sets could receive interference from these unlicensed devices in 80 to 87 percent of a television station's coverage area.

Moreover, the FCC's most recent report, released July 31, 2007, found a prototype device that supposedly avoided interference by "sensing" the presence of TV signals simply did not work and can cause interference. Even a small amount of interference freezes a digital picture.

While I support efforts to deliver service to rural America, it seems to me there are ways to utilize "unused" spectrum through fixed systems that can offer the advantages of broadband to rural consumers without threatening more urban viewers who rely on over-the-air television.

A smooth digital transition is important to Congress, to the FCC and to the people who rely on its service. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Shays".

Congressman
Christopher Shays
Fourth District Connecticut

Offices:

10 Middle Street, 11th Floor
Bridgeport, CT 06604-4223

Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901-2927

1126 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515-0704

Telephones:

BRIDGEPORT: 579-5870
NORWALK: 866-6469
RIDGFIELD: 438-5953
SHELTON: 402-0426
STAMFORD: 357-8277
WASHINGTON, DC: 202/225-5541

E-mail:

rep.shays@mail.house.gov

Internet:

www.house.gov/shays