

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

October 11, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

Dear Chairman Martin:

We are writing concerning the importance of the fast approaching digital television transition and the negative effects allowing unlicensed personal and portable devices to operate on television frequencies could have on television reception after the transition. Consumers will collectively be spending billions of dollars over the next several years on digital televisions and digital-to-analog converter boxes with the expectation that these products will produce significantly sharper pictures. Allowing unlicensed devices to operate on these frequencies has the potential to interfere with the incumbent users of this spectrum, resulting in degraded service for the end user of this spectrum, the American public.

The test results released by the FCC on July 31, 2007 illustrate that prototype white space devices cause interference under a variety of conditions, which may affect up to 87% of a broadcast stations' geographic service area. Much more testing and evidence is needed to ensure these devices operate at the level the manufacturers claim they can. If allowed onto the market, one malfunctioning device could potentially affect dozens of households. We need to be certain that this will not happen, and to this point, testing has not demonstrated that we can be certain.


We strongly support efforts to expand broadband service and availability, to yet unserved or underserved pockets of America. However, we should not do so at the expense of the American public's ability to receive broadcast television without interference. The 2009 DTV transition will be the most significant change in American broadcasting and television for decades to come. Congress, the FCC, NTIA and all involved parties should be solely focused on ensuring televisions sets do not go dark on February 17, 2009. Given that major undertaking, we should not complicate the transition by allowing unproven devices to operate on broadcast frequencies.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices if we can be of further assistance.

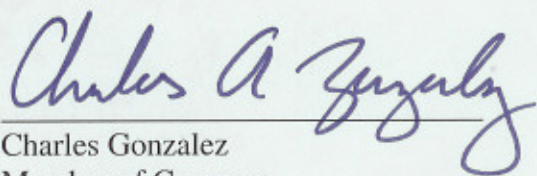
Sincerely,



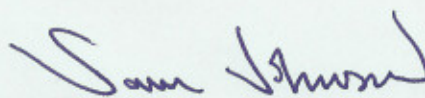
Gene Green
Member of Congress



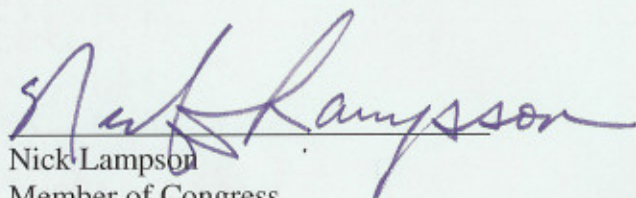
Ralph Hall
Member of Congress



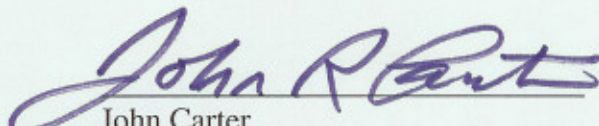
Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress



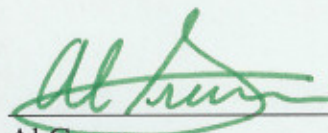
Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



Nick Lampson
Member of Congress



John Carter
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress