



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

FEB 21 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

Thank you for your letter sharing your view that Section 3005 of the Deficit Reduction Act can be read to permit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to allow households whose coupons have expired to apply to have the coupons re-issued. You also urge NTIA to allow coupons to be re-issued under these circumstances provided that there are sufficient funds remaining in the TV Converter Box Coupon Program (Coupon Program) to support it.

NTIA is very aware that the financial assistance provided by the Coupon Program will have a critical role in the ultimate success of the digital television (DTV) transition. The current rule gives a consumer 90 days to purchase a converter box with an issued coupon, after which time a new coupon can be issued to another needy household with the funds released by expiring coupons. NTIA will have a better understanding of the impact of the 90-day expiration and the demands on Coupon Program funds as consumers begin to redeem coupons in the coming months.

As I testified before the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet on February 13, 2008, I will work with you and your staff to address this issue and others that arise as NTIA implements this program in the way that best serves the needs of our Nation's consumers. If I or my staff can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me or Jim Wasilewski, NTIA's Director of Congressional Affairs, at (202) 482-1551.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MABaker" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Meredith Attwell Baker
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Communications and Information



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Information Administration
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The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Telecommunications
and the Internet
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Markey:

Thank you for your letter sharing your view that Section 3005 of the Deficit Reduction Act can be read to permit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to allow households whose coupons have expired to apply to have the coupons re-issued. You also urge NTIA to allow coupons to be re-issued under these circumstances provided that there are sufficient funds remaining in the TV Converter Box Coupon Program (Coupon Program) to support it.

NTIA is very aware that the financial assistance provided by the Coupon Program will have a critical role in the ultimate success of the digital television (DTV) transition. The current rule gives a consumer 90 days to purchase a converter box with an issued coupon, after which time a new coupon can be issued to another needy household with the funds released by expiring coupons. NTIA will have a better understanding of the impact of the 90-day expiration and the demands on Coupon Program funds as consumers begin to redeem coupons in the coming months.

As I testified before the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet on February 13, 2008, I will work with you and your staff to address this issue and others that arise as NTIA implements this program in the way that best serves the needs of our Nation's consumers. If I or my staff can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me or Jim Wasilewski, NTIA's Director of Congressional Affairs, at (202) 482-1551.

Sincerely,

Meredith Attwell Baker
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Communications and Information