



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

September 23, 2008

Mr. Gary Shapiro
President and CEO
Consumer Electronics Association
1919 S. Eads Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Mr. Christopher A. McLean
Executive Director
Consumer Electronics Retailers Coalition
317 Massachusetts Avenue, NE – Suite 200
Washington, DC 20002

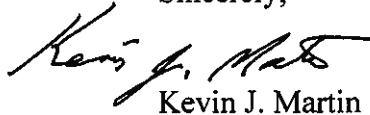
Dear Mr. Shapiro and Mr. McLean:

As you are aware, we are fast approaching the digital television (DTV) transition on February 17, 2009. I am writing to ask your help in encouraging the availability of battery packs for digital-to-analog converter boxes and battery-powered DTV receivers. Many consumers rely on battery-powered TV receivers to obtain emergency information when power outages occur, particularly during severe weather events. As you know, existing battery-operated analog TV receivers will no longer be usable after the DTV transition unless they can be connected to a digital-to-analog converter box. However, to date, only one manufacturer has made a battery pack available for use with its analog-to-digital converter box. Many other digital-to-analog converter boxes operate from an external power supply and it appears they could operate with battery packs.

Similarly, only a very limited number of battery powered DTV receivers are available on the market. The few battery-powered DTV receivers that are available are often out of stock. Here too, it does not appear that the market is meeting consumer demand for these devices.

I urge you to convey to your members that there appears to be a significant unmet market demand for battery packs for digital-to-analog converter boxes and for battery powered DTV receivers. The availability of battery operated DTV converters and DTV receivers is vitally important as a matter of public safety. As such, their availability is a critical component of a successful transition. Please consult with your members and let me know when we might expect to see more such products on the market. I appreciate your efforts to minimize the burdens that consumers may face as a result of the digital transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Kevin J. Martin